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Weizman expected to win 2nd term

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

As workmen began hammering on a wooden polling booth where MKs would cast their votes, the Knesset was abuzz yesterday with speculation about whether President Ezer Weizman would be reelected, although most bets were that he would defeat Likud challenger Shaul Amur.

The 120 MKs are scheduled to cast their ballots at 11 a.m. tomorrow. Either candidate would need an absolute majority of 61 to win.

Weizman's bureau chief, Arye Shumer, who a few weeks ago had spoken of wall-to-wall support for the incumbent, stated emphatically yesterday that Weizman would not pull out if a second round became necessary. A second round would be needed only if neither candidate polled 61 votes.

Shumer was responding to speculation that Weizman could be embarrassed if another round of voting were needed, since every other presidential incumbent in Israel's history has won reelection to a second term.

"The president has always been a fighter and he will fight to the end," Shumer said. Late last night he added, "But it won't be necessary."

There were no hard feelings

HOW THEY MAY VOTE

	Weizman	Amur	Abstain
Likud	8	23	1
Labor	32	2	
NRP	3	6	
Shas	0	10	
Yisrael Ba'aliya	3	4	
Third Way	4	0	
UTJ	2	2	
UAP	3	0	
Meretz	8	0	1
Moleket	1	1	
Hadash	5	0	
TOTALS			
Weizman	66		
Amur	48		
Undecided	3		
Abstentions	3		

towards Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who had proposed Amur's candidacy. "And there will be none. They met only last week to discuss the regional crisis and the cooperation was as good as usual," Shumer said in a conciliatory tone.

At their faction meeting yesterday, Likud MKs did not appear to be fully behind their candidate, as some eight MKs were overly or covertly supporting Weizman. Some said there would be more defections when the secret ballot was held.

At a meeting of Labor MKs yesterday, faction leader Eli Goldschmidt urged all MKs to abide by a party decision to support Weizman. Potential defector Ephraim Oshaya, who met with the president yesterday, said afterwards that he was still wavering. Party secretary Ra'anan Cohen was optimistic Oshaya would give Weizman his vote.

"We can count on at least 32 Labor votes for Weizman," Cohen said.

See WEIZMAN, Page 3



Friends of the seven schoolgirls killed in last year's Naharayim massacre comfort each other during yesterday's ceremony at the site. (Yael Somekh/Israel Sim)

Families mark Naharayim anniversary

By HERB KEINON

The families of the seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls gunned down by a Jordanian soldier at Naharayim visited the Jordanian side of the site for the first time yesterday, which was the first Hebrew anniversary of the killings.

It was an emotional visit. After spending two hours looking around the hill where the killings took place, and after being told by IDF officers and survivors of the school trip what and where everything happened, the families crossed over to the Israeli side of the border for a memorial service.

"The pastoral view in this beautiful valley is so peaceful, so beautiful, but it is full of such tragedy," said Miri Meiri, whose daughter, Yaela, was among the girls killed.

"No one heard, no one warned, no one came to help, or to evacuate. It is hard to come here."

The white triangular sign leading from the main highway to Naharayim still reads "Naharayim, Island of Peace."

But the reality, said Yisrael Pichli, the father of Sivan, is much different.

"Our beloved daughters will remain children forever," Pichli said, in English, at the memorial ceremony, so that the Jordanian delegation, including King Hussein's emissary, Prince Rayed Bin Ziyad, and a number of high-ranking Jordanian officers, could understand.

"We, the bereaved families, cannot refer to this place as the island of peace. For us, this place will always remain the island of murder and death."

"We are sure," Pichli continued, "that the murderer and his horrible actions damaged the peace process, and caused our people to have some doubts about the name and essence of peace with our eastern neighbor."

"Citizens of Jordan, you must know that the peace treaty between our two countries was welcomed by [the] majority of the Israeli people, you must make every effort to strengthen it, and to reject from your midst all those who wish to interfere in the process. The Jordanian people will benefit from the peace no less than the Israeli people. We have no other alternative to peace."

Speaking at the ceremony, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Jordan and Israel should "remember the tragedy and rededicate ourselves to a new beginning in the search for peace between our nations."

Netanyahu praised Jordan's King Hussein for "standing firm" during that particular trial.

"King Hussein came to Beit Shemesh to visit the families; he could have stayed home and sent an emissary. The peace is judged during these moments," Netanyahu said.

"There can be a crazy murderer, that happens. But what is the reaction? If the reaction is sympathy and acceptance, turning him into a martyr, that is not helpful for the peace. The test of peace is standing firm — as did the governments of Jordan and Israel — against these abominable deeds."

Rayed told the crowd that "civilized nations learn from their experiences. What happened here last year should be a reminder for us all to work harder in seeking true, lasting peace."

"Let us not allow the grave sacrifices of the innocent school girls of Bakura (the Arabic name for Naharayim), or of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, or the worshippers at the Ibrahim Mosque [the Machpela Cave] in Hebron, to be in vain."

After the ceremony, the families climbed up a grassy hill that has been turned into a memorial site.

Seven gravel mounds, each with the first name of one of the girls spelled out in red and black plants, are spread across the hill and surround a number of saplings.

The families gathered around the mounds — which resemble seven graves — recited Psalms, and wept.

The moving force behind the memorial site was Orna Shiloni, from neighboring Kibbutz Ashdot Ya'acov Meuhad, whose own son, Eyal, was killed in Lebanon, in September.

"When my world was turned upside down," she told the families, "you gave me the strength to continue. And today, in my horrible pain, don't leave me."

At the foot of the memorial hill is a sign with the pictures of the girls and a short biography of each one.

The sign reads: "In memory of seven flowers plucked at the Island of Peace."

Lebanese affairs coordinator Lubrani:

France could make or break deal

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's offer to withdraw the IDF from Lebanon if the Lebanese Army takes charge of the evacuated area and prevents it from serving as a springboard for attacks on Israel may depend on French support and involvement for its implementation.

Lebanese affairs coordinator Uri Lubrani predicted yesterday that the Israeli initiative's fate will be determined by the outcome of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's talks in Paris next week.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Yves Doutriaux reportedly said France was ready to take part in an international system of guarantees regarding an Israeli pullout from Lebanon.

France, which governed Lebanon and Syria under League of Nations mandates after World War I, indicated on Sunday that it was willing to do what it could to help promote dialogue between Beirut and Jerusalem.

But Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez said that UN Security Council Resolution 425, which was cited by Netanyahu as the basis of his pullout proposal, calls for a unilateral Israeli pullback.

Bouez also contended that Israel would have no say about security measures. The Associated Press quoted him as saying that "such arrangements will be worked out with the UN."

Lubrani, who has been dealing with the volatile situation in southern Lebanon for the past two decades, said, "We are only at the beginning of the road," insofar as a wind down of the conflict between the IDF and Hizbullah is concerned.

He was not surprised or deterred by the initially negative response given by Lebanese officials.

"Whoever hoped the Lebanese reaction would be positive the first time around lives in illusions," Lubrani went on.

He contended that the offer came as a total surprise to Beirut.

"They are under Syrian pressure," he said, indicating that the Damascus regime does not want Lebanon to adopt an independent stance on the Israeli proposal.

Lubrani contended that Bouez "deviated from a totally negative response" to the extent that he referred to the role to be played by the UN, "although that was not good enough."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shir-On said Israel's embassies — especially those in Europe — have been instructed to brief their host governments about the withdrawal offer and to enlist their support.

Reports that cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and the prime minister's foreign policy adviser, Uzi Arad, conducted secret talks in Paris about the Lebanese situation were denied by French officials.

Upon their return to Jerusalem, neither Arad nor Naveh would comment about their trip or its purpose.

Hillel Kuttler adds from Washington:

US State Department spokesman James Rubin indirectly criticized Israeli yesterday for reportedly deciding that the peace process with Lebanon and Syria is dead, saying the Americans "don't concur with that assessment."

He also announced that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright would visit with European leaders at the end of the week, in part to discuss the UN debate of last week's agreement with Iraq.

Asked about the Israeli decision to seek a deal for an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, Rubin said: "Certainly our task continues to try and see if we can find a way to bridge the gaps between Israeli views and Syrian views on how to close the circle of peace. That is what the Israeli government has asked us to do. That is what President Clinton wants us to do. And I know Secretary Albright and others have been working on that."

See LEBANON, Page 3

Princess Diana leaves £21.5 to her sons

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's Princess Diana left £21.5 million (\$35m.) in her will, published yesterday.

The bulk of the bequest, made public for the first time, will be held in trust for Diana's two sons, Prince William, 15, and Prince Harry, 13. They will receive their full inheritance when they are 30, although they can be paid income from it before then.

Other beneficiaries were Diana's 17 godchildren, who will be allowed to choose a memento, such as a painting or piece of china from among Diana's possessions, and her former butler Paul Burrell, who receives £50,000.

The will also provides for the princess's intellectual property rights, her wardrobe and the fairy-tale wedding dress she wore when she married Prince Charles in 1981 to be used for charitable purposes or for the benefit of the princes.

Tax paid on the fortune was £8.5m., leaving £13m. to be divided among the beneficiaries.

Lawyer Martyn Gower said it was unusual for the will to be published.

"But the family had come to the conclusion that in view of the great public interest, this was the appropriate thing to do, just to make sure there was no suggestion at all that anything was being hidden under the carpet or that the right amount of tax had not been paid," he told journalists.

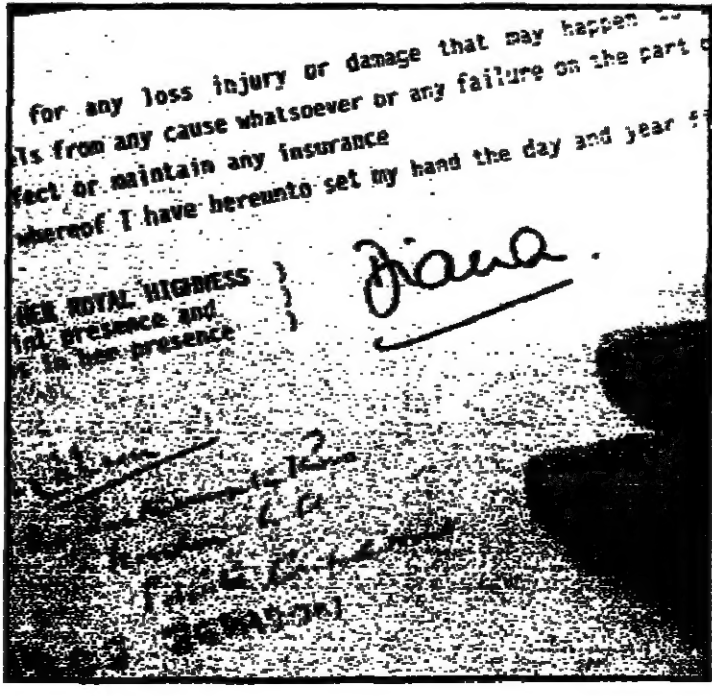
Diana's will was altered after she died in a Paris car crash on August 31 because the original was drawn up in 1993, three years before she and her husband Prince Charles divorced.

The need to change the will came from within the family, Gower said, to provide the flexibility needed to ensure the godchildren and the butler could benefit.

Last December, at the behest of former prime minister John Major, who is acting as guardian for the princes, lawyers obtained a court order that allowed the will to be altered posthumously to reflect her wishes. Legal experts say such amendments are not uncommon, provided all the beneficiaries agree.

Most of the princess's estate comes from the estimated £17m. divorce settlement she won from Prince Charles.

Meanwhile, the bodyguard who was the sole survivor of the accident was quoted yesterday as saying she had called out for her lover, Dodi Fayed, moments after the crash. Fayed, heir to the Harrods department store empire,



Princess Diana's will was made public yesterday.

was beside her in the rear seat. Trevor Rees-Jones was also quoted by *The Mirror* newspaper as saying it was Diana who urged the driver to go faster to escape paparazzi photographers, whose motorbikes were driving in front of the car, not behind.

Major repeated a plea for discretion in the obsessive reporting of Diana's last moments.

He said the young princes "would like their mother's memory respected and not distorted with wild rumor and tasteless and tacky activities."

Syria still calls the shots

The recent Israeli initiative on south Lebanon should be considered a gift by the Lebanese.

Here is an Israeli government offering a unilateral IDF withdrawal without demanding a peace treaty and without demanding a simultaneous Syrian withdrawal. The only Israeli condition is the creation of a stable, secure regime along the Israeli-Lebanese border.

And yet the Lebanese government is vehemently rejecting Israel's generous offer, which, for it, is a gift that stings. This is because Lebanon is no longer a real independent state, but a Syrian colony dominated by a Syrian occupation army. And Syria views the recent Israeli acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 425 as an attempt to drive a wedge between Syria and Lebanon.

Syria's prime consideration is a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the June 4, 1967 lines. And pressing Israel from south Lebanon — a problem Israel is finding increasingly difficult to handle — is one of Syrian President Hafez Assad's trump cards in his aim to achieve this. He knows that Israel bleeds in south Lebanon, and he has no regrets about it.

An Israeli withdrawal from there, in agreement with the Lebanese, will address a pressing Israeli need, but Assad believes it will weaken any incentive that Israel may have to negotiate the fate of the Golan Heights.

So Syria has issued a resounding no to the Israeli initiative, meaning that its chances of success are minimal, at best, and more likely nonexistent.

Still, this initiative enables the Netanyahu government to score some points, both in Israel itself, where public opinion is growing restive about what seems to be inaction and ineptitude in south Lebanon, and internationally, where reaction should be favorable to Israel's readiness to comply with a UN resolution.

But of course, what really matters is the situation on the ground, where Syria, through its Hizbullah allies, still calls the shots.

We can count on Assad to make full use of his allies to try to drive home his points to Israel and the rest of the world.

The writer, a former head of the Government Press Office, is an expert on Syria.

ANALYSIS

By YOSHI OLMERT

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NEWS

in brief

Levine still most likely to head Mossad

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has cut his list of candidates to head the Mossad to three, with sources saying that OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine remains the leading candidate. Sources close to Netanyahu said that the prime minister has chosen to ignore the letter from reserve major-general Yossi Peled, in which Peled urged Netanyahu not to appoint Levine. A government source said the premier had consulted with Mossad officials about the possibility of naming someone from within the organization but has rejected that option. *Eitan Rabin*

Swiss police were on trail of Islamic militants

Swiss police have been monitoring possible Islamic militant threats to Israeli and US interests. The Associated Press learned yesterday. The Swiss surveillance began months before Mossad agents bungled an espionage move in Switzerland last month. According to documents seen by AP, Swiss police received a tip from abroad last year that Hizbullah was planning to set up cells in Switzerland. The documents referred only to "Israeli and American interests" as possible targets, and didn't say whether they were in Switzerland or elsewhere. *AP*

Kolton, Manor buried

The two IAF aviators killed Sunday in the F-15 crash near Nablus were buried yesterday. Maj. Uriel Kolton, 27, from Bat Yam, was buried in the Holon Military Cemetery. "I want to thank you for 27 years as the older brother," his brother Danny said. "You were a wonderful son, brother, uncle and brother-in-law." Hundreds of people came to the Haifa Military Cemetery for the funeral of weapons officer Capt. Uri Manor, 21, of Haifa. Manor had been one of the central figures in the squadron, his commander said, adding that he had been expected to go on to fill a key role in the air force in the future. *Itim*



Maj. Uriel Kolton



Capt. Uri Manor

AG seeks gag order on Bassiouny case

The Attorney-General's Office has asked Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court to impose a gag order on proceedings against Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny, who has been accused by a belly dancer of attempted rape. Bassiouny is claiming diplomatic immunity. He has refused to accept court papers served by the Foreign Ministry. The gag order was urged apparently out of concern that publicity about the case could hurt Israeli-Egyptian relations. "The public has a right to know about every case that is going on in court, because that is the only way the court can do justice," said Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, the belly dancer's lawyer. "If it is kept secret, justice will not be done." *Elli Wohlgerlerner*

IDF rounds up Palestinians

Israeli security forces have rounded up dozens of Palestinians in the Hebron area suspected of throwing stones and participating in violent demonstrations, the army said. A number of the Palestinians were released after initial questioning, the army said. The sweep came after a sharp increase in the number of stone-throwing attacks against Israeli civilians and security forces following the Iraqi crisis. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Lebanon demands unconditional withdrawal

By DAVID RUDGE

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez hinted yesterday at a way for the IDF to pull out of south Lebanon under UN Security Council Resolution 425 while ensuring security at the border. In interviews in the Lebanese press Bouez intimated that security arrangements could be negotiated under UN auspices. He maintained, however, that there was nothing new in Israel's proposals and that Lebanon would accept nothing less than an unconditional withdrawal.

"The belief that Israel has offered to implement 425 and that Lebanon has refused is incorrect," Bouez told the *Al-Hayat* newspaper.

He maintained that Israel was distorting the resolution by adding conditions and ruled out any direct

negotiations over its implementation or security arrangements. "Lebanon sees 425 as unambiguous and not subject to arbitration," Bouez said.

"For Lebanon to agree to sit down and discuss 425 (with Israel) would be to relinquish our rights. We can never agree to modify that resolution one way or another."

The UN has the job of "getting Israel out of Lebanon and UNIFIL has the task of giving the liberated lands back to the Lebanese State," Bouez said.

In an interview with the Beirut daily *As-Safir*, Bouez hinted that a mechanism for security arrangements did exist but only through the UN.

"Resolution 425 stipulates an unconditional pullout by Israel and calls for arrangements between the UN and Israel on the

one hand and between the UN and Lebanon on the other," Bouez was quoted as saying.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri also criticized Israel's proposal, while Syrian newspapers denounced the initiative as a trick.

"[Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu is accompanying his proposal with a string of conditions which handcuff Lebanon from the military and political points of view, limit its sovereignty and independence and (attempt to) drag it into the Zionist circle," wrote the Damascus daily *Tishrin*.

Hizbullah radio maintained yesterday that Israel's initiative was aimed at fixing a date for a visit by UN secretary-general Kofi Annan to Beirut so he could implement "Israel's calls for the dismantling of Hizbullah's infrastructure."

"The recruiting of Annan for the

Israeli proposal is a new US-Zionist plot aimed at giving the impression that Israel is seeking a solution and thereby avoid international scrutiny of Israel's true policies now the Iraq crisis has cooled off," the broadcast said.

Arieh O'Sullivan adds: In Tel Aviv, defense officials dismissed Lebanon's rejection of Israel's proposal on Resolution 425, with one official alleging that Beirut was in a "state of confusion."

But some defense officials also sensed a change in Bouez's position.

"Bouez no longer speaks about 425 being a ruling for Israel's immediate and unconditional withdrawal. Suddenly he says the UN needs to be consulted on the arrangements. It is a change, but that is not good enough," a senior official said.

Naveh-Erekat talks inconclusive

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The latest round of talks between cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and chief Palestinian Authority negotiator Saeb Erekat ended inconclusively yesterday, leading the participants to schedule a follow-up session this morning in Jerusalem with a senior official of the Internal Security Ministry.

"There still are gaps," Erekat said, upon emerging from US Ambassador Edward Walker's official residence in Herzliya. The PA official proceeded directly to Gaza where he gave a detailed report to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

In an appearance before the Council of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations shortly before his meeting with Erekat, Naveh allied to Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak's reported backing of a prospective US initiative designed to break the Israeli-Palestinian deadlock.

"We hear others who are pressing us to do what is important for our security," Naveh said. "But only Israel will be the one who determines what is essential for its security."

A government source dismissed the notion that the US is about to publicize its proposals with regard to the issue of IDF redeployment in the West Bank.

Hillel Kuntler adds from Washington:

State Department spokesman James Rubin said yesterday that "clearly" Israel and the PA have not made "those hard decisions" that US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called on them last year to make, and added that "we are looking at whether there are other steps we could take to try to revitalize the process that has been so moribund over the last year."

An embassy official confirmed that former ambassador Zalman Shoval is, hoping to meet in Washington this week with members of Congress on issues related to the peace process. Shoval has not yet arrived, while David Bar-Ilan, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's communications adviser, is here but only to meet with newspaper columnists, the official said.

PM: US pressure won't bring peace

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday firmly repeated his stand that only Israel can determine its security needs and that outside pressure would not work.

Speaking to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at a festive dinner in the Knesset, Netanyahu said, "[The Palestinians] appear to believe they need not negotiate because the Americans will pressure us to make concessions and that the threat of Saddam and life will pressure us. I believe that I can speak for all of us when I tell them that the only way to true peace is negotiations between the parties involved."

"And equally I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say that it is Israel and Israel alone that will make the decisions vital for its security. No one will make that decision for us."

"And there is a very simple reason for that. Because it is we who will have to live with the consequences. And therefore only we should do the negotiating. An imposed solution is neither desirable nor viable. It simply will not happen. It never happened in the 50 years of Israel's life. It won't happen now."

He said the overwhelming majority of the Israeli public would stand behind the government on the permanent arrangements knowing it was insisting on security and paving the way for peace.

He described the demonstrations by the Palestinians in favor of a strike by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Tel Aviv as "discouraging" and "frustrating."

Melvin Salberg, chairman of the presidents' conference, said that the conference's position too is that "only the parties involved can find their own solutions. Imposed solutions cannot find success. Only the people of Israel can determine what its security needs are. No third party can determine them."



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai meets with soldiers at an IDF position in the security zone yesterday.

(Defense Ministry)

Mordechai says Lebanon deal could take 'a long time'

By DAVID RUDGE

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai sought yesterday to reduce any expectations of a speedy troop withdrawal from the security zone, saying he expected to have "to deal with the problems that exist in Lebanon for a long time to come."

Still, he stressed, in remarks to reporters in Haifa, that every effort was being made to try and achieve a solution.

"As I have said on numerous occasions, we will seek a solution. If there is such a solution which will guarantee the security of the north and a way can be found for our forces not to be there, we will all be happy," Mordechai said after visiting wounded soldiers at Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

"I would suggest that we be realistic. It will (probably) be necessary to deal with the problems that exist in Lebanon for a long time to come," Mordechai added.

"This does not, however, exempt us from making every possible effort to reach an arrangement that would enable peace and security in the north and the withdrawal of IDF forces."

"There is still no process apart from our willingness to recognize 425. We want the Lebanese government, under the 425 framework, to prove, and take action to show, it is capable of controlling its territory and prevent terrorism from south Lebanon and reach an agreement with us," the defense minister added.

Mordechai is scheduled to discuss the Lebanon issue during a visit this week to the Netherlands and France. Stalled peace talks with Syria are also expected to be on the agenda, security sources said.

Resolution 425, passed after the 1978 Litani Operation, calls for an IDF withdrawal from south

Lebanon, the reestablishment of Lebanese sovereignty and control over vacated areas, and restoration of peace and security to the region.

Mordechai and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have said several times in the last few days that Israel would be ready to comply with the resolution, if the Lebanese government provides requisite security backing.

The ball, following Israel's 425 proposal, was "stuck in the Lebanese/Syrian court" and the French, who have a history of involvement in Lebanon, could help get it rolling again, the security sources said.

In Haifa, Mordechai reiterated calls to Syria to resume negotiations, but stressed that this would not preclude direct or indirect talks with the Lebanese over the situation in south Lebanon.

"The landlord of Lebanon is the Lebanese people and the Lebanese

government. At the same time, I have called on Syria on numerous occasions to return to the negotiating table. We have an interest, with or without any connection to Lebanon, to talk with Syria about the years-long conflict between Syria and Israel."

"I am among those who believes that if we sit and enter into serious negotiations, we can reach an agreement (with the Syrians)," Mordechai said.

Mordechai was briefed by senior officers at the site of a security zone position where three soldiers were killed by a mortar round on Thursday, and three were wounded.

Deputy hospital director Dr. Zvi Ben-Israel said that the conditions of two soldiers who had been seriously wounded have improved.

He said that one soldier had been transferred to the orthopedic ward and that the other was expected to soon be moved out of the intensive care unit.

"The landlord of Lebanon is the Lebanese people and the Lebanese

UNIFIL head: We can help restore control

By DAVID RUDGE

UNIFIL would be capable of helping the Lebanese army assert control over south Lebanon after an agreed IDF withdrawal, Timor Goksel, senior political adviser for the international peace-keeping force, said yesterday.

He revealed that UNIFIL had contingency plans for such an eventuality and that these were upgraded from time to time so that they could be implemented relatively quickly.

"For nearly 20 years, nobody in Israel seemed to know what UN Security Council Resolution 425 was all about, except in the past

few two months," said Goksel.

"The only time I saw any mention of the resolution was in an article in *The Jerusalem Post* about a year ago, but certainly it was not mentioned by any political leaders," he said.

Goksel stressed that UNIFIL had been waiting for 20 years, ever since its establishment after the Litani Operation in 1978, to fulfill its mandate and deploy its forces to the international border.

This had not occurred because of the existence of the security zone, in one form or another, and the presence of the IDF there.

More than 230 UNIFIL person-

nel have died serving with the force since its inception and over 400 have been wounded.

Goksel maintained that in the event of an agreed IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon, the Lebanese army would deploy its troops in the vacated areas and impose its authority and control over the region, with the aid of UNIFIL.

"An agreed withdrawal would mean that both the Lebanese army and UNIFIL would have full political backing from the Lebanese government, as well as from the international community, for such a redeployment," said Goksel.

"If that happens, as we foresee

it, the maximum area would be given to the Lebanese army because we are very much aware from our vast experience that security can be best assured by a strong national force. An international force, no matter what it might be called, can only act in a complementary way."

"Pending a peace accord between the two countries, one would also assume there would still be the need for contacts between them. UNIFIL could play a very important liaison and communication role in this respect, until the day that they can talk to each other directly," he added.

Barak: Withdrawal must assure safety for the North

BATSHEVA TSURI, LIAT COLLINS and DAVID RUDGE

Israel must have an agreement with the Lebanese government that will guarantee that the areas from which the IDF withdraws will not serve as a launching pad against the North, Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said yesterday. There also has to be Syrian agreement, even if this is tacit, he said.

"[UN Resolution] 425 means we have to pull out, period. Then the UN will enter into negotiations with the Lebanese to help establish their sovereignty... This is one-sided and will endanger the North," Barak told the Labor faction meeting yesterday in the Knesset.

He said that a unilateral withdrawal would give Syria the impression that that Israel was weak and would submit to dictates when discussing the future of the Golan Heights.

"The government is sending out a message of extreme weakness, of buckling under to public pressure just as it did [during the recent Gulf crisis] over the anti-boycotts. This provides the Syrians with a lever [with which to pressure Israel]," Barak added.

MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) told the Knesset that the Grapes of Wrath understandings, which include a ban on harming civilians on either side, could provide the formal basis for an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon.

Beilin said Israel should leave "on a back-to-back basis — our withdrawal from Lebanon at the

same time the Lebanese Army redeploy in the whole southern area, with UNIFIL aid, according to Resolution 425, which is acceptable to Lebanon and Syria."

Local council heads in the Galilee were divided over the question of a proposed IDF withdrawal from the security zone.

Upper Galilee Regional Council head Aharon Valenci said he supports the government's initiative.

He maintained that residents of the region believe the IDF could better defend the North from Israeli territory. The IAF would be able to act more freely and any terrorist squad that approached the border fence would be hit, said Valenci.

Metulla Local Council head Yossi Goldberg, on the other hand, recalled terrorist attacks on northern communities that had occurred when the IDF had not been in Lebanon.

"It's crystal clear to us that what is happening now in the security zone would simply come to the communities," Goldberg told reporters.

"Then we would have to cope not only with the price that we are paying today [in south Lebanon], but with daily [terror] activities... The result would be a massive incursion into Lebanon with an even heavier price."

President Ezer Weizman said it "is important, and we have to try," to get out of Lebanon. He made the remarks while visiting the family of St.-Sgt. Yoni Dvir, who was killed Thursday when Hizbullah bombed an outpost in the security zone.

With sorrow we announce the passing of my husband

PETER MANNING

His wife: Monica

Our dearest

Dr. DANIEL SAVIR

is no longer with us.

Mourning by his wife, Marion and his daughters, Shlomit and Ofra. He bequeathed his body to science.

Sharon off to Jordan Sunday

By JAY BUSHINSKY

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon is to travel to Jordan on Sunday, where he is to confer with King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan and Water Minister Munzir Haddadin.

Among the subjects to be dis-

cussed will be joint industrial projects, water development, tourism and railroad expansion.

Sharon also is expected to deal with political issues, especially the status of the bilateral peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority as well as the prospects of renewing the

peace process with Syria and Lebanon.

Sharon had planned to visit Jordan last week, but the outbreak of rioting in the southern city of Ma'an and the subsequent security crackdown there led to a last-minute postponement.

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Sharansky asks Russia to help halt Iran's missile program

By ADAM TANNER

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky appealed to Russian leaders yesterday to help stop Iran developing ballistic missiles.

Sharansky met Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin as part of the government's intensified campaign to highlight what it sees as a major threat to peace.

"We discussed the problems of Iraq, of the Middle East, but first of all the situation with Iran and our Israeli concern about possible development of weapons of mass destruction and especially missiles for delivery of these weapons," Sharansky said.

"We want that Russia will not only not be involved but that Russia will do everything to prevent this type of assistance (to Iran) from its citizens," he said.

US and Israeli officials suspect Iran is seeking to develop long-range missiles and nuclear weapons, but Russia has repeatedly denied it is helping it develop dangerous weapons.

"The opinion of specialists, both

American specialists and our specialists, is that we have a very serious limit of time," Sharansky said in an interview. "In a couple of years from now the situation could be very different."

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov issued a joint statement with his visiting Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharrazi last week denying "as wholly without foundation various declarations alleging that Moscow and Tehran are cooperating in the creation of weapons of mass destruction in Iran."

In January, Yuri Koptev, the head of the Russian Space Agency, acknowledged some Russian firms had tried to sell goods with military uses to Iran but said Moscow stopped the deals.

Russia has refused to abandon a \$800 million contract to build a nuclear power station at Bushehr despite suggestions by the United States and Israel that the station could enable Iran to develop nuclear arms technology.

"Russia has serious economical interests in its relations with Iran, for example, and other countries of



Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky (right) meets in Moscow yesterday with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. (Reuters)

the region and it's not going to give up on this interest," Sharansky said.

"But on the other hand it is up to the West to show to Russia that there are other opportunities, and to be ready for more close cooperation for identifying mutual interests in this part of the world," the minister said.

Sharansky declined to give details

on Russian firms or entities Israel suspects of cooperating with Iran.

It was Sharansky's second visit to the land of his birth since his release from a Soviet prison in a 1986 East-West prisoner swap after becoming a prominent dissident during communist times.

Two weeks ago Sharansky met US Vice President Al Gore in Washington to discuss efforts to

encourage Russia to end any nuclear and missile cooperation with Iran. Sharansky said he hoped Gore's biannual meeting with Chernomyrdin in the United States next week would be "fruitful" on the Iran question.

Asked if it was hypocritical for Israel to develop its own nuclear program yet condemn Iranian efforts, Sharansky replied: "Still,

it's official policy of a number of the (Middle East) countries to destroy the state of Israel, which from their point of view does not have the right to exist."

"The only thing which we have to do is to guarantee our survival," said Sharansky, who is scheduled to meet with Primakov and the space agency's Koptev today before leaving Moscow.

Moussa tells Peretz: Peace talks could explode

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa warned Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz yesterday of an impending "explosion" on the Israeli-Palestinian front unless more progress was made in peace negotiations.

"If we don't reach the final status talks within 14 months I don't know what will happen. This situation is extremely frustrating to us," Moussa told Peretz during a meeting in Cairo.

Moussa was also quoted as warning that if the stalemate in talks persisted, "it will lead to an explosion between Israel and the Palestinians."

Peretz said Moussa hoped that Israel's efforts to renew talks with Syria were not "intended to distract attention from the main thing, which is the talks with the Palestinians."

Peretz said that Egyptian leaders also criticized Israel's handling of the Azzam Azzam spy case.

"It is possible that certain moves of the Israeli government were not conducive to the release of Azzam," Peretz said.

He was referring to a Druse man convicted of espionage by Egypt in August and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Peretz said he asked Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak "whether there was a chance Azzam would be released, and the answer at this moment is negative."

"I asked to see him and to improve his prison conditions, and the president agreed immediately and said he would arrange it," Peretz said.

Peretz also urged a strengthening of ties between Israeli and Egyptian labor unions.

Moussa accepted an invitation from Peretz to address a Histadrut forum during which both he and Peretz would urge an acceleration of the peace talks.

Britain expected to press Israel, as 'payment' for its Gulf stance

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - Britain is preparing to use Israeli currency to pay "the diplomatic bill" to the Arab world for its participation in the military build-up during the Gulf crisis.

Britain's strategy for mending fences with the Arab world took its first, tentative post-crisis steps last week when Prime Minister Tony Blair met Arab ambassadors at London, one of whom later quoted him as saying that "Britain wants to do something."

That "something" is likely to take the form of bold rhetorical flourishes - criticism of Israel and support for Arab causes - at forums in London, Jerusalem and in other Middle East capitals.

This week, the campaign will be

accelerated when Foreign Secretary Robin Cook is expected to publicly identify Israel as the primary cause of the stalemate in the peace process when he addresses a reception to be hosted by the Anglo-Arab Association.

Setting the tone for the rhetorical hostilities to follow, a British Foreign Office spokesman said: "We remain extremely disturbed that the peace process has stalled. We recognize the frustration that this causes around the Middle East."

Officials in Britain, which holds the current presidency of the European Union, have signalled they will take full advantage of at least two high-profile opportunities to underscore these points in the coming weeks - when Cook visits Israel later this month and Blair vis-

its in April as part of Israel's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Both Cook and Blair, who will also meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza, are likely to use their encounters with their Israeli interlocutors to publicly and abrasively condemn Israel, while expressing support for Palestinian national aspirations.

British sources said they are expected to be far tougher than previous British governments in condemning what they perceive to be foot-dragging by the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Specifically, they will point to Israel's "settlement activity" in Jerusalem and what they perceive to be Israel's obstruction to the development of the Palestinian

economy.

They will also blame Israel for blocking the creation of an airport and seaport in Gaza, for failing to provide "safe-passage" access routes between the West Bank and Gaza, and for refusing to make "credible and significant" redeployments in the West Bank.

him adds:

Cook is to meet with Palestinian leaders in Gaza on March 17, Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said yesterday.

Cook will be followed by Italian President Luigi Scalfaro on March 18, and Austrian President Thomas Klestil on March 20, Shaath said.

Scalfaro and Klestil are also to visit Israel, though their exact schedules are not yet known.

Landau slams leaks

By LIAT COLLINS

Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) yesterday said both his committee and the sub-committee on secret services will hold a series of meetings on the recent leaks on the Mashal Affair, Yehuda Gil and the Swiss incident.

"These leaks eat away at the security foundations of the state and break the norms of behavior of the secret services," Landau said, adding "senior officials in the secret services establishment give a bad example to junior staffers" by leaking information.

He said the leaks create a crisis of confidence between those in the

field and their officers and that field operatives might start feeling as if they are pawns in their officers' hands.

The committee yesterday held a meeting in which it heard short reports from academics on Israel's security concepts. Among those who spoke were Tel Aviv University's Dr. Haim Asa and Dr. Martin Sherman; Haifa University's Yuval Steinitz and Amnon Sofer; and former MK Yoash Tsiddon.

The committee reportedly was presented with several possible future defense scenarios. Steinitz said this is an attempt to establish a group which will consider the "reverse psychology" of different possible situations.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Resolution 425

Last weekend's disaster in Lebanon, in which IDF soldiers were killed and wounded, followed by reports of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 425, supporting an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, raised the Lebanon issue to the top of the public agenda.

Yediot Aharonot's Shimon Shiffer claims that the government's support of a withdrawal, based on an agreement with the Lebanese government in which the Lebanese Army would replace the IDF forces along the border, is not practical. He attributes this to the hold Syria has on Lebanon.

"Whoever wants to stop the casualties in Lebanon must reach a settlement with Damascus," he writes, adding that this means giving up the Golan Heights.

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid states that Netanyahu is attempting to send a message to the world that Israel is

forced to occupy the security zone, even though she has no desire to do so.

"We must stress Israel and Lebanon's common interest in the withdrawal from the security zone and establishment of peace," he writes, "as opposed to the interests of Syria and Hizbullah to continue fighting."

While Israel believes in a withdrawal under certain conditions, Syria is talking about an unconditional unilateral withdrawal, Yediot's Alex Fishman states.

"Because no negotiations are taking place, statements have no practical meaning," he writes, adding that the only achievement of statements is that "they give the Israeli public a feeling that something is being done in the matter."

The tall guy

Commentators protest the latest attacks on the media, following the publication of details concerning the

recent Mossad failure in Switzerland.

"What would have happened if the affair wasn't reported? Yediot's Sever Plotzker asks. "Israel would have been washed with a wave of shivering, uncontrolled, false rumors nurtured by the panicky atmosphere."

Plotzker adds that the media have no right to conceal operational mishaps from the public on the grounds that not doing so could cause some inconvenience.

"A newspaper that does that ... turns into a watch dog with a folded tail between its legs that falls asleep on its guard."

Ha'aretz's Uzi Ben-Zimman refers to Mossad chief Danny Yatom's request that newspaper editors refrain from publishing the information as being out of touch with reality. He adds that the state has every right to protect its agents if their lives are at stake, which was not the case in this affair.

"The attack against the media ... is a vision not only of hypocrisy but of

the inability to differentiate between significant and secondary."

"When the failures of a relatively open intelligence organization are exposed it still can rise to a higher level despite the decline of its image in the eyes of the public and the world," Amnon Lord writes in Yediot. "With all the pain that this entails, it is a price that must be paid."

The next president

The election for president, due to take place tomorrow, continues to stir controversy.

According to Ma'ariv's Shalom Yerushalmi, the Likud's Shaul Amur cannot match the international status that President Ezer Weizman has obtained during his 50-year career.

"Amur's prior commitment to back down from dealing in political matters ... casts suspicion on him as Netanyahu's potential marionette."

LEBANON

Continued from Page 1

owners who were not pardoned.

Amor made a point of distancing himself from the initiative to send a letter in support for his candidacy, from PR agent Ranny Rahav, a close associate of Leah Rabin, who has come out in favor of Amor.

Amor spent the day talking to MKs in the Knesset cafeteria. At evening, he described his feeling as "good."

For Weizman it was business as usual: He visited the families of the bereaved and those wounded in the latest violence in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Labor MK Yona Yahav decided to introduce a bill proposing that a president be elected for one term of seven years.

The US will "continue to support" UN Resolution 425 that "all foreign troops should withdraw from Lebanon," he added.

In response to questions about whether that meant the US also supports the departure of Syrian troops from Lebanon, Rubin twice reiterated that that is the case.

"We hope that Lebanon-Israeli negotiations, if they were to bear fruit, would provide a way for Israel and Lebanon to resolve all the issues that divide them and to enhance Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the security of both countries," he said.

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NEWS

in brief

Lands Administration workers up sanctions

Some 700 employees of the Israel Lands Administration decided yesterday to step up sanctions launched 23 days ago in protest of plans to consolidate offices, which could entail layoffs.

The workers severed outside contacts and are refusing to handle any Housing Ministry files or cases involving zoning changes for agricultural land, in addition to a boycott of other routine duties that has been in effect since mid-February.

Yesterday's decision came after administration bosses rejected a proposal drawn up by Shlomo Yitzhaki, the Labor Ministry official in charge of labor relations, who had tried to mediate the dispute. *Itim*

Herzliya man murdered

Oren Shem-Tov, 22, was shot to death early yesterday near his home in Herzliya. Around 1 a.m., as Shem-Tov was parking his car by his home on Bilit Street, an unidentified man came and shot him. Police said that the slaying may have been the result of a dispute among criminals. *Itim*

Man convicted of several rapes

Alexander Piskunov, 28, of Kiryat Motzkin, was convicted yesterday in Haifa District Court of several counts of aggravated rape, sodomy and sexual molestation. Sentencing was scheduled for later this month. *Itim*

Science Foundation to distribute NIS 130m.

The National Science Foundation announced plans yesterday to award a record NIS 130 million for research projects this year, in honor of its 25th anniversary.

The foundation increases its grants by about 13% each year. It gives about 45% to science and technology projects, an equal amount to medicine and life science research. The rest is divided up between social sciences and humanities.

Grants which run from NIS 70,000 to NIS 150,000 apiece, are won by approximately one in three applicants. *Judy Siegel*

Maxim Levy to head Meretz-Gesher list in Histadrut poll

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MK Maxim Levy said yesterday he would run for Histadrut chairman as head of a joint Gesher-Meretz list.

Levy, who spoke after being nominated by Gesher, said that Na'amat Chairperson Ofra Friedman was asked to seek reelection as part of the new list.

Friedman recently quit the Labor faction in the Histadrut and decided to head her own list in the approaching Na'amat elections.

Levy's unexpected move jolted the sleepy Histadrut campaign, which had previously failed to arouse much interest. The elections are expected to take place by summer.

Levy said "a social front with

Gesher and Meretz is vital to fight against the two major parties, which are ignoring the workers' problems, while the government is violating labor and wage agreements with the trade unions."

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, whose efforts to form a "wall to wall" front with Meretz and the Likud ran into snags, was critical yesterday of the planned Gesher-Meretz list.

"Meretz is using Maxim Levy to express its anger at my efforts to unite all the Histadrut factions," Peretz said.

The Likud is still trying to persuade MK Meir Sheerit to run against Peretz.

Shas, which is part of the Histadrut coalition, refuses to join in a list with Meretz.



Esther Zeitz-Pollard criticizes the High Court yesterday for postponing a decision on whether her husband Jonathan was an Israeli agent. (Brian Hestler)

Decision on Pollard petition delayed

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Despite an emotional outburst by Esther Zeitz-Pollard, the High Court of Justice yesterday morning postponed a decision on a petition from her husband, convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, requesting that he be recognized as an Israeli agent.

Instead, the court agreed to a request from the state that it be granted a further 60 days to allow a ministerial committee to formulate its policy on securing Pollard's release and put it into action. But Justice Yitzhak Zamir suggested that the ministerial committee, rather than the court, might be the correct forum for a declaration that Pollard was an agent, Zeitz-Pollard said after the closed hearings ended.

Jonathan Pollard reacted strongly to the court decision in a telephone conversation with his wife yesterday afternoon.

"The Supreme Court threw me out just as I was thrown out by the [Israeli] Embassy [in Washington] 13 years ago. Their failure to take responsibility and act honorably closes the circle that began with the Defense Ministry's abandoning me, then with the political echelon. They are playing with my life," he said.

Zeitz-Pollard, who said she was "overcome with emotion," shouted out at the justices: "Do you want Jonathan to die?" causing Justice Eliezer Goldberg to threaten to throw her out of the courtroom.

She said later that "the [justices] don't understand that Jonathan's life is threatened every day in jail."

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein said yesterday evening that he would demand that the ministerial committee announce that Pollard was an agent and ask the prime minister to take responsibility for securing his release. Pollard should be brought to Israel during the Jubilee year, Edelstein said.

The committee is due to meet within the coming week. Pollard is serving a life sentence in a Butner, North Carolina, prison for spying on the US for Israel. On October 29, when the court first heard his petition for state recognition as an Israeli agent, the government was given 60 days to respond. But the court reconvened only yesterday.

In his response to the court, Uzi Fogelman, head of the Justice

Ministry's High Court Division, said that new steps had been taken meanwhile: a ministerial committee had been formed to secure Pollard's release and Edelstein and Communications Minister Limor Livnat had visited him in jail.

Fogelman, according to Zeitz-Pollard, promised the court that Pollard's lawyers and wife would be intimately involved in the committee's actions.

"It is time for Israel to come out of the closet," MK Ophir Pines, head of the Knesset lobby for Pollard said yesterday evening.

Pines said he plans to bring a resolution to the Knesset to recognize Pollard as an agent for whom the government has responsibility. This will give backing to efforts to release him, Pines said.

"We are certainly not going to come to a conclusion today," McCarthy said yesterday. "There are too many questions that remain unresolved and answers are not available today."

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubenstein's office has also not yet decided whether to accept the compromise, which a Jerusalem District Court judge proposed last week.

One question was the issue of capital punishment, and whether the youth - who is not allowed to be publicly identified in Israel because of his age - could face the death penalty in the case.

McCarthy said the state did not pass death sentences on offenders for committing a crime when they were younger than 18 years old.

"This is not a death-penalty-qualifying case," he said. "That would not apply in this instance and relative to the judge's proposal we're still exploring what that means."

Defense attorney David Liba'i said the youth feared for his life in a US jail, and requested to serve his sentence here.

The youth fled to Israel in September, shortly after the killing and dismemberment of an acquaintance of his, Alfred Tello Jr., in Montgomery County. The youth has been fighting extradition to the US, where he has been indicted in the Tello killing, along with another Maryland teenager.

Court overturns Kahane sedition verdict

By GALIT LIPKUS BECK

The High Court of Justice yesterday overturned a conviction of sedition against Kahane Ha'activist Binyamin Kahane.

Kahane, son of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane who founded the outlawed Kach movement, had appealed after being convicted by Jerusalem District Court in 1995

for publishing leaflets that called for the "bombing of Umm el-Fahm."

The leaflets were published shortly before Kahane's list was disqualified from the 1992 elections.

Kahane was initially acquitted by Jerusalem Magistrates Court, but the district court overruled it a year later, finding that the leaflet

was bound to have led to racist actions if it had been distributed.

High Court President Aharon Barak and Justice Eliezer Goldberg decided to overturn the conviction while Justice Elyahu Mazza issued a minority ruling, upholding the guilty verdict.

Goldberg wrote that while what he called an "infantile leaflet" was slanderous against Arabs, it did

not have any real potential to incite sedition.

Goldberg called for weighing rights to free speech when considering such charges.

In contrast Mazza wrote that while democracy in Israel has strengthened in recent years, some anti-democratic trends have emerged in the last 20 years since the appearance of Kahanism.

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150 מיליון ש"ח

Yarkon River Authority tells Australian envoy: Yarkon river to be cleaned up

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Hiking along the banks of the Yarkon River, and floating down the river in a boat, Australian Ambassador Ian Wilcock received a lesson in the environment yesterday. Officials from the Yarkon River Authority explained to him precisely how they were implementing their long-term plan to clean up the tributary.

Authority chairman Chaim Adini invited Wilcock to tour the area to promote his idea of creating a public park to memorialize the Australian athletes who lost their lives last summer when a bridge collapsed into the river during the opening ceremonies of the Maccabiah games. The park would include the site adjacent to the Ramat Gan stadium where the tragedy occurred.

Adini said that the Jewish National Fund agreed to cover at least 33 percent of the cost of creating the park. "But they said that they could not move forward without the blessing of the bereaved families and the Australian community," he said.

According to Frank Stein of the Zionist Federation of Australia, the victims' families first priority was to see that the waters of the Yarkon were cleaned up. At least two of the four athletes who perished did not drown, but died as a result of ingesting the water of the Yarkon.

"Why would they give their blessing to a park through which would run a still-polluted river?" he asked.

Adini, together with Yarkon River Authority director-general David Pergament, brought Wilcock and Stein to the river to show them



Yarkon River Authority chairman Chaim Adini (left) tells Australian Ambassador Ian Wilcock about progress made in cleaning up the stream during a tour of the area yesterday. (Tan Orensky/Israel Sun)

that the process of cleaning the river was in progress. The first seven kilometers of the river have been cleaned, and sewage processing plants in Kfar Sava, Hod Hasharon, and Ramat Hasharon, due to be completed in the fall, will make further progress in eliminating toxins from the river water.

However, cleaning up the Yarkon is extremely difficult, Pergament said, due to the fact

that so much of the water is siphoned off at its source near Rosh Ha'ayin, used for drinking water in the Gush Dan region, and diverted to the Negev. The vastly reduced amount of water causes the Yarkon to remain stagnant, particularly in years when there is little rain. This encourages algae growth at the bottom of the river; it was the bacteria from the algae which is believed to have killed

the athletes.

"Even after water is cleaned up," Pergament said, "the banks and the bottom of the river have a memory, and it can take years to eliminate the effects of previous years of pollution. The less rain that falls, the longer the process takes."

Following the tour, Wilcock said that he "was impressed with the vision and the energy from the people who are cleaning up the river."

Clearly, this is not a new program, but the Australian people's interest in it has sharpened since the bridge collapse last July. One of the things I admire about Israel is that it is a can-do country, and I believe they will get this done."

Wilcock was careful to remain neutral on the question of a park. Wilcock said it was not his place to convince the bereaved families to support building a park.

'Peoplemeters' show 'Focus' as No. 1-rated TV show

By HELEN KAYE

Figures released from the recently inaugurated computerized TV rating system show that Rafi Ginat's magazine program *Focus*, on Channel 2, topped the charts for the last week of February with a 35.8% audience share.

Channel 2 News tops Channel 1's *Mabat* by an average of 29.1% to 24.4% in the same survey. The least popular show in prime time was the movie *Striptease* on Channel 2 with 22.5%.

The Israel Rating Board (IRB) formally unveiled the system yesterday.

Following an exhaustive and detailed survey of 6,000 households throughout the country, the fully computerized "peoplemeters" or TV ratings monitors, were installed in 385 representative households over the summer and fall.

The monitors feed constant and detailed information on individual viewing habits throughout the day



Rafi Ginat's program *Focus*, on Channel 2, topped the charts for the last week of February.

to a central computer, which analyzes the data to compile the charts.

The findings are sent to IRB members which include all the TV channels, the Channel 2 fran-

chises Reshet, Keshet and Tel-Ad, and advertising bodies.

Second Television and Radio Authority head Nahman Shai, who is also IRB board chairman, called the new system a breakthrough and added that the country's increasingly competitive broadcast structure "has mandated a research tool that can only benefit both television and the public at large."

IRB head Oren Tokatli pointed out that the new rating system has already served up some surprises. For example, some 70% of the country watches TV, versus the 50% reported by the Gallup and Telescan polls used up to now.

"It is too soon to tell whether the system will cause far-reaching programming changes," he said. "However, the sophisticated data we can provide will undoubtedly contribute to increased professionalism all around."

The system is operated by Tel-Gal in affiliation with the UK firm of AGB.

Neeman to Presidents' Conference: Human beings can't change Torah

By DAVID HARRIS

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, who heads the committee on conversion, received a lukewarm reception yesterday from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations when he declared that the ground rules of Judaism cannot be changed by human beings.

"If we want to be united we must have certain rules which cannot be broken by anyone," he said, adding there can be no separation of religion and state in a Jewish state.

While admitting that a standard cannot be enforced for prayers, he insisted that basic principles must be accepted if the Jewish people is to remain one nation:

- God created the universe.
- God gave the Jewish people the Torah through divine revelation at Mount Sinai some 4,000 years ago.
- The Torah cannot be changed by humans.

"These are the principles which

we as a nation must be united about," Neeman said. "Whether you eat kosher food in your home that is supervised by Rabbi A, Rabbi B or Rabbi C is totally immaterial to me. But the Jewish state must have an army in which all of us can eat in their kitchen. A Jewish state must have certain elements which will differentiate us from other states."

Despite the numerous tragedies that have beset Jews living in countries across the world, Neeman said the one thing that has kept the people together has been religion. Neeman said the choice of congregational membership is personal and has no legal implications. What is important is whether one is a Jew or not, he said.

Only about a third of the audience applauded the minister, with the remainder appearing less than pleased with his comments. However, those supporting his stance approached the minister immediately after his speech to congratulate him on expressing the views that they share.

New ministry rules prevent blood transfusion mix-up

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry has issued new rules aimed at preventing blood transfusion mix-ups and barring doctors from prescribing unapproved combinations of drugs for weight reduction.

The instructions given by Dr. Yitzhak Berlovich, head of the ministry's medical division, require interns and resident physicians to undergo an orientation course on ministry transfusion procedures.

Berlovich explained that there have been numerous near-accidents and mix-ups of blood units in recent years. "Students don't learn ministry regulations in medical school," Berlovich said. "The transfusion process is long and not simple: it requires checking patients' identity card numbers and names and the blood identification unit not once but several times, by several people."

Giving a patient blood of the

wrong type can cause death. Such fatalities have occurred, although not in the past few years, Berlovich said. He added that he was "sure that I don't hear about the near misses."

Meanwhile, doctors and pharmacists have been ordered not to prescribe medication "cocktails" for appetite suppression.

Berlovich said there have been cases of people ending up in an emergency room after taking such cocktails, where doctors had trouble prescribing treatment because the prescription was unclear.

"This is a serious phenomenon," said Berlovich.

He said that licensed anorectic (appetite suppression) drugs could continue to be prescribed in their original boxes for serious cases of excess weight.

The possible side effects of diet drugs include hypertension, dizziness, headaches, psychiatric problems and physical dependence.

Tel Aviv matches law to reality

The Tel Aviv City Council, after much procrastination, has at last decided to amend the city bylaws and legalize the theaters, cinemas and other places of entertainment that have operated for years on Friday nights, Saturdays and holidays.

At the same time, a majority of 20 council members agreed not to upset the status quo in the city.

Since so many Tel Aviv theaters, restaurants and cafes have been open on the Sabbath and holidays for the past 20 years, many residents are confused about the new legislation and are wondering what will change if the interior minister approves the changes.

"We simply adjusted the law to the reality," Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo said. "There was an impossible situation in Tel Aviv. Cinemas and entertainment centers were open for years, but the law actually forbade it."

Secular Tel Aviv has the hardi owner of the new Ramat Aviv mall, Lev Leviev, to thank for the new law that legitimates their weekend entertainment. He bought the Africa Israel company, which operates the mall, and reneged on the previous owners' agreement with Israel Theaters to open the cinemas in the mall on Friday nights.

Israel Theaters claimed this is a breach of the status quo, in addition to a violation of its agreement with the mall. Former Supreme Court Justice Dov Levin, who was appointed arbitrator, ruled in Leviev's favor. Levin said that the decision to shut the cinemas on Shabbat was in keeping with the existing bylaws. Levin also suggest-

ed that the Tel Aviv City Council change the bylaws to accommodate the prevalent situation.

Milo, despite his frequent opposition to religious coercion, was reluctant to change the bylaws for fear of angering religious circles. Milo, who

wants to run for another term as Tel Aviv mayor, kept putting off the council vote on the issue.

But Levin's ruling, together with the

energetic action of opposition councilman Arye Zucker who initiated the amendment, left Milo no choice but to act on his convictions.

The pledge to preserve the status quo is Milo's attempt to have his cake and eat it too.

"We have no intention of breaking the status quo in the city," he said on Israel Radio yesterday, trying to appease his religious and haredi coalition partners, as well as his secular majority.

He noted that certain cinemas and theaters already are open in Tel Aviv on weekends and holidays. "The Cameri Theater, for instance, works on Friday nights, while Habimah doesn't, because of its management's policy."

When pressed, Milo conceded that with the new legislation, more theaters and cinemas will be able to open on weekends and holidays.

Kiosk owners who work on Shabbat said yesterday that despite Milo's declarations about freedom from religious coercion, city inspectors are still ticketing them for operating on Shabbat. The kiosk owners' savior may be the Meretz city council faction. It is drafting a proposal which would allow all businesses and kiosks in the city to operate on weekends and holidays.

Panel raps ministry over immigrant soldier rules

By LIAT COLLINS

Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee Chairman Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) yesterday denounced as "absurd" an Interior Ministry policy of not recognizing marriages of immigrant soldiers and of not automatically giving their parents citizenship.

The ministry apparently fears that some such marital unions could be fictitious. It tends to deny citizenship to immigrant soldiers' parents in cases where they are not eligible under the Law of Return.

"This is foolishness bordering on heartlessness," Blumenthal said. "The soldiers endanger their lives during their military service while their parents and wives are left behind with no status, no work rights, no health insurance and so on. Does the IDF really have second-class soldiers?"

She said the IDF should recognize the marriages and grant the soldiers rights, while any couple found to have wed fictitiously could be punished.

At the end of a meeting on the circumstances of immigrant soldiers, the committee decided that the ministry should grant permanent resident status to close relatives.

It also called on the Defense Ministry to recognize these soldiers' marriages.

The committee heard stories about a woman soldier whose family is awaiting deportation; a man whose wife and son would be left virtually without income once he is drafted in the coming week; a woman whose husband was killed in action who was not recognized as an IDF widow.

The head of the Population Registry, Rafi Cohen, said that the Interior Ministry was abiding by the law.

The deputy head of the IDF Manpower Division, Brig.-Gen. On Regonis, said there should be a policy of drafting only citizens or permanent residents. He supported the idea of giving permanent residency to first-degree relatives of soldiers.

GSS bill passes first Knesset reading

The Knesset yesterday passed by 16 to 5 the first reading of the so-called GSS bill which will bring the General Security Service under the supervision of the Knesset Subcommittee on Secret Services.

The subcommittee meetings on issues relating to the GSS will be closed and heavy punishments - of up to three years in prison - could be meted out to anyone who leaks their contents.

The bill proposes that the prime minister could, with the subcommittee's approval, add to the GSS's field of operations "activities intended to protect and preserve vital state interests." It also requires the GSS head to report to the subcommittee at least once every three months. A clause calling for a three-year sentence for journalists publishing classified material on the GSS was dropped two weeks ago.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi called the bill "revolutionary."

"It determines for the first time in major legislation that the GSS

is subject to the law," he said.

Hadash postpones J'lem day vote

The Hadash faction yesterday turned the vote on the Jerusalem Day bill into a motion of no-confidence, postponing it to next Monday. The bill by MK Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) calls for the date of the reunification of Jerusalem to be an optional holiday from work.

Hadash whip Salah Salim said: "Porat is trying to turn the conquest of east Jerusalem into a holiday. This is an unusually bizarre nationalist proposal which sees war and conquest as cause for celebration."

Musical chairs

The National Religious Party MKs did the Knesset equivalent of musical chairs yesterday with a

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

series of changes in positions following the appointment of Shaul Yahalom, former chairman of the Knesset Law Committee, as transport minister and of Yitzhak Levy, former transport minister, as education minister.

Hanan Porat, former party whip, was appointed Law Committee chairman and was replaced as whip by Shmaryahu Ben-Tsur. New MK Eliyahu Gabbai replaced Ben-Tsur on the Finance, Economics and Education committees.

Nissan Slomiansky replaced Yahalom and Avner Shaki replaced Porat on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and Zvi Hendel replaced Slomiansky on the Knesset House Committee.

Row over Italian rightist

MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet) said yesterday he would ask Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, as acting foreign minister, to receive Italian nationalist party leader Gianfranco Fini. Kleiner met Fini, who heads the National Alliance party, in Italy two months ago. He said the meeting was held with the knowledge of the Foreign Ministry, to prepare the ground for his visit here.

At that meeting it was agreed that at its next party conference, the National Alliance would renounce race laws and the distribution of antisemitic material. Kleiner said these acts would pave the way for Fini's visit here.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid yesterday condemned the planned visit.

"There is no room here for a visit by a neo-Fascist, even a repentant one. There's certainly no need to rush it. He should be

made to crawl here," Sarid said.

Limiting local deficits

The Knesset Interior Committee yesterday prepared for second and third reading a bill which states that councils deviating from their budget by more than 40% will be dissolved by the Interior Ministry and a replacement council appointed.

The committee meeting was attended by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, Interior Minister Eli Suissa and Adi Eldar, chairman of the Union of Local Authorities, who protested the bill. Committee chairman Salah Tarif (Labor), who supported it, said councils with large deficits should not be given a free hand. Eldar said the local authorities are the government's punching bag and the Finance Ministry has a responsibility towards them.

"This is an anti-democratic bill which will demolish the local authorities," he said.

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Early

India's sepia terms

Against enormous odds - wars, violence, internecine strife and political assassinations - India's democracy has survived. It's odd, flawed, vast and incomprehensible to outsiders, but still with us.

It could be that the Indians' love of that old cliché "the world's largest democracy" is the only thing that still keeps them democratic, but noisy democrats they are. As long as they stay that way, India will always be a defiant challenge to the rest of Asia, and particularly to China.

Apologists for the world's biggest dictatorship claim it is too big to be democratic and survive - "look what happened to the Soviet Union." The survival of democracy in India is a miracle. The country has been so divided between Moslem and Hindu that at independence

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

From the future looms the concept of Hindutva, militant Hinduism, pushed by militant religious-nationalists seeking to take over the BJP and government.

The glamorous Sonia added some celebrity sparkle to the campaign and brought a glow to the pale and withered cheeks of old Congress Party hopefuls. It was like the "good old days" (formerly known as "these trying times.") The good old days can be anything from the salt marches of Mohandas K. Gandhi defying the British, to Indira Gandhi sweeping imperiously across the land like a Mogul empress. It is a common misconception abroad that the Mahatma was the first of the Gandhi dynasty that gave India three prime ministers. He wasn't, nor was he even related to the later Gandhis, and the dynasty should properly be called the Nehru dynasty.

A new misconception outside India is that Sonia Gandhi is a Gandhi. She is not even an Indian - she is the Italian lady Indira Gandhi's son chose to marry. That is why her campaign was a faded and forlorn shadow of past glory. To be sure, she may have halted the catastrophic slide in the Congress Party's fortunes. But to see it as the beginning of a Congress revival under her leadership is naive.

Indian, Hindian

In fact it is as much a misconception to view Hinduism as an idol-worshipping religion as it is to suggest that Christians worship statues of saints. There is only one "divine principle" in Hinduism, and the "gods" represent different aspects of that unity and the many forms of life that the single principle of Nature manifests.

Hinduism has no organization and no concept of orthodoxy. It has a priestly caste of brahmins, but their role is only to rule on all-important ritual purity.

Hindus are 80 percent of the population and their attitudes to India are similar to Jewish attitudes to Israel - in varying degrees they see their country as the world's only Hindu homeland and are suspicious of any attempt by internal minorities to refuse that and further break up the nation. It is an attitude which members of other religions resent - as if it were impossible to be a patriotic Indian without being a Hindu.

Inter-Hindu religious-secular tensions are a relatively new phenomenon, driven by politics, the decline of the Congress Party and the Gandhi dynasty, and the rise of the militantly Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party. The votes of last month's election are still being counted, and the generally uninteresting campaign did give a hazy glimpse of democracy's past and future side by side.

Raj widow

From the past, like some faded sepia photograph, came a traditional Gandhi campaign, in the shape of Sonia, the formerly reclusive wife of the assassinated Rajiv Gandhi.

Helmut Kohl's new challenger

Social Democrat candidate Gerhard Schroeder wants to be Germany's Tony Blair

By MARY WILLIAMS WALSH

OSNABRUECK, Germany - It's late afternoon, and the cultural center of this northwest German manufacturing city is filling up fast. The entrance stairway is decorated with depressing unemployment statistics, but the mood in the ballroom is upbeat: A pianist is belting out amplified Big Band favorites, the tables are decked with bottles of on-the-house beer, and people are waving banners with slogans like "It's About Jobs."

The lights go down. The cheering swells as a man in a checkered vest introduces the evening's speaker: Gerhard Schroeder, governor of Lower Saxony - a man with a shot at becoming the next chancellor of Germany.

"He's no ordinary governor, comrades!" calls the master of ceremonies, as he introduces the man who yesterday officially became the Social Democrats candidate for the chancellorship in next fall's national elections.

"Where he fights for jobs, thank God, jobs are saved." The crowd explodes with cries of "Gerhard! Gerhard!"

Some 240 kilometers southwest of here, Chancellor Helmut Kohl sits in Bonn, as firmly entrenched as any democratic politician can be. He has occupied the chancellorship for almost 16 years, longer than any German leader since Otto von Bismarck united imperial Germany in the 1860s. Kohl has far outlasted such celebrated counterparts as Margaret Thatcher, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Francois Mitterrand and Lech Walesa. Germans have taken to calling him "the eternal chancellor."

Even now, with the official unemployment rate touching 12 percent,



Kohl. End of a 16-year era? (AP)



Schroeder. Friend of big business (AP)

opinion surveys show that Kohl could win again this fall, when Germany goes to the polls to elect a new government. Kohl is fatherly, reassuring, statesmanlike. He may be blamed for record joblessness, but he still gets full credit for negotiating 340,000 Soviet troops out of East Germany at the end of the Cold War, without a shot being fired.

His Christian Democrats are a known entity, unlike the opposition Social Democrats, who enjoy a huge center-left constituency but are plagued by infighting and a lack of clear solutions to this nation's most pressing problem: unemployment.

According to opinion polls, only one German has a good chance of beating Kohl. And that is Schroeder, the 53-year-old maverick now taking the podium in Osnabrueck.

"I stand for many things," he tells the crowd, ticking off a list of factories where he has saved jobs. "But not for standing still."

No indeed. The federal elections aren't until late September, but already Schroeder is running hard. His home state went to the polls on Sunday, and Schroeder, with jobs as

his rallying cry, was overwhelming re-elected.

Following his decisive victory Sunday, Schroeder was chosen over Social Democratic Party Chairman Oskar Lafontaine to lead the charge on Kohl.

Behind the rivalry between Schroeder and Lafontaine lurked the core weakness of the Social Democratic Party: its inability to agree on a coherent economic strategy. Schroeder and Lafontaine may both be Social Democrats, but their personal styles and philosophies could hardly be more different.

Lafontaine, a skilled orator with an advanced degree in physics, stands for beefing up the German welfare state and putting workers ahead of shareholders.

Schroeder, by contrast, has been carving out an image for himself as a new breed of Social Democrat - a German version of Tony Blair's "New Labor" in Britain. Though Schroeder hails from unimpeachable blue-collar origins - his widowed mother supported the family for years as a cleaning woman - he

embraces big business as Germany's best hope on the jobs front.

As a member of Volkswagen's supervisory board, Schroeder claims to understand how business works and says he's the best one to help entrepreneurs create jobs. He promises to cut taxes for midsize German companies and to free up the oppressive regulatory climate in Germany.

The German welfare state is economically unviable in its present form, he says, and needs overhaul. Union giveaways? To Schroeder, they're just the price of staying internationally competitive.

Schroeder's economic track record isn't perfect. His state has the fastest-growing rate of indebtedness in Germany, and the second-highest unemployment in the former West. Schroeder says that he has slowed the rise of unemployment, but economists question his methods: Some of his job-protection programs have involved costly state interventions, such as his recent "nationalization" of a regional steel mill, to keep it out of the clutches of an Austrian company that wanted to take it over.

But how does Schroederism play in the conservative hinterland? About 120 kms. north of Osnabrueck lies the town of Papenburg, population 35,000, a Christian Democratic stronghold if there ever was one. Seventy percent of the voters here came out for Kohl's Christian Democrats in the last election.

Papenburg lies on a narrow river, the Ems, and it used to be a big shipbuilding center, with 22 local yards sending vessels down the Ems to the North Sea. Only one of those shipyards has survived to this day: the Meyer yard, whose huge build-

ings stand a proud, if incongruous, symbol of industrial prosperity in the middle of hard-scrabble sheep pastures on the outskirts.

Back in the 1980s, when low-wage shipyards in Asia were undercutting Germany on tankers and freighters, Meyer made a smart move into the construction of ultra-luxurious, one-of-a-kind cruise vessels, mainly for the American market. As a result, while other shipyards in Germany are bleeding jobs by the thousands, Meyer is adding employees. It has 2,000 workers on the payroll, and its order books are full until the year 2003.

"The Meyer yard is a prime example of what Schroeder is trying to promote in Lower Saxony," says Hans Brauer, editor of the Papenburg newspaper. "A family business, not too huge, but which is able to win orders from all over the world. Innovative technology. No red ink. Schroeder is impressed by this, because he's a doer himself."

There's just one catch: The Meyer shipyard is nowhere near the ocean. Before one of its tall, stately cruise vessels can sail off into the deep waters of the North Sea, it must navigate the treacherous shallows of the River Ems as it meanders through 40 kms. of farmland.

Schroeder is now pushing a remarkable scheme to build a \$195-million dam across the delta, so that the Ems valley can be flooded every time a seaborne vessel needs to sail through.

"He's our biggest friend," says Guenther Kolbe, head of the works council at the shipyard.

But will this appreciation translate into votes on election day? Brauer doesn't think so.

"People here are very earnest," he says. "They're conservative in a good way." (LA Times)

Battle brews over another Kennedy auction

By AMY ARGETSINGER

WASHINGTON - On a November day in 1959, Jacqueline Kennedy dashed off a conspiratorial note to her husband's secretary, penned in her long, looping hand.

"Dear Mrs. Lincoln. Here are 2 bills which I have been dreading to show Jack for months. Please try your best to slip them in without his noticing - There will never be any more like them I promise! Thanks, Jackie"

It is a charming glimpse into the home life of the future president and his young wife. But it's also Exhibit A in a simmering battle over the rightful ownership of hundreds of Kennedy artifacts that are to be auctioned in New York later this month - many of them collected by his secretary, the late Evelyn Lincoln.

Kennedy family loyalists have questioned whether Lincoln was legally entitled to dozens of items that came into her possession, including the president's Hermes black leather briefcase and his handwritten journals from a 1951 trip to Eastern Europe, both of which are expected to draw bids of up to several hundred thousand dollars.

Last week the inheritor of hun-

dreds of Lincoln's Kennedy treasures defended the secretary's right to these items - and his right to sell them. Robert L. White said dozens of letters like this one - which auction house officials expect to fetch about \$5,000 on the auction block - and other documents prove that his friend Lincoln, who died in May 1995, was a cherished member of Kennedy's inner circle whom the family happily showered with White House memorabilia.

"She was the consummate keeper of the secrets," said White, a noted Kennedyana collector from Cantonville, Md. Attorneys for the Kennedy Library Foundation contacted White to challenge his right to the items shortly after Guernsey's auction house announced plans for its March 18-19 sale of more than 500 items of Kennedy memorabilia. Though nearly 70 different collectors have consigned items to the show, about 300 articles come from White - more than 200 of which he obtained from Lincoln, whom he first befriended as a teenage autograph-seeker in the early 1960s.

White's attorney, Robert M. Adler, said Kennedy lawyers "implicitly threatened a lawsuit" and warned they could have a "chilling effect" on the auction. "We hope to resolve our differences," he said.

Lawyers on the other side, including Kennedy Library Foundation Chairman Paul Kirk, could not be reached for comment Monday. Late last year, Kirk said there were "serious questions regarding the provenance of those items."

Arjan Ettinger, Guernsey's president, said he is dismayed by criticism of the auction. "We have maintained from the start that this would be a celebration of the life of John F. Kennedy and his career," he said. "We have steered clear of any material that might be viewed as scandalous or insensitive."

Ettinger said he does not expect to see prices rise as high as those in the 1996 Sotheby's auction of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' estate, when items projected to fetch \$3 million brought a total of \$34.5 million. White, an obsessive collector who also stockpiles Stanley Cup rings, shrunken heads and Three Stooges memorabilia, seems an unlikely steward of Camelot. But over three decades he has amassed what is considered to be one of the most impressive Kennedy collections - more than 10,000 items ranging from the president's letters and credit cards to his wallet and

rocking chairs.

Two years ago, White declared he had no interest in capitalizing on the astronomical prices of Jackie-mania but instead wanted to open a museum.

After failing to find a host city or financial backing for his project, though, and after he lost his sales job because of the time he spent on his collection, White resolved last fall to sell a few items.

Among these are Kennedy's leather-handled shoebox, a stereo he traveled with and a personalized sterling silver Tiffany calendar commemorating the Cuban missile crisis - a gift from the president to Lincoln.

To bolster his and Lincoln's claims to the Kennedy artifacts, White points to such inner-circle members as Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and financier Maurice Tempelsman, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' longtime companion, thanking her for her White House service and asking if she would lead any of her collection to the Kennedy Library.

White said Jacqueline Kennedy distributed many of her husband's personal items to his staff and close friends after his death. "Jackie never had second thoughts about giving this to Evelyn

Lincoln," he said. "She wanted people to have a piece of him." In addition, during the president's life, Lincoln was famous for squirreling away discarded scraps of paper. Everyone knew she had these items, Adler said, but "no one in 35 years has brought this up." Now some of those scraps are expected to draw top dollar. Some are breathtakingly mundane. "These are the English & French magazines we would like subscriptions to," Jacqueline Kennedy wrote in one. "Have them sent here and billed to Jack's office." But in another item from White's collection, Jacqueline Kennedy writes to Lincoln in December 1964, thanking her for letting Caroline and John Kennedy Jr. spend hours playing in her office.

"It was the best way they could see their father - and if you hadn't been so sweet to them and made them feel that they were more loved and wanted there than any important visitor - they would have missed so much of their closeness with him - and they would have so many less memories of him - I love you for all that you were to him and them and me."

Guernsey's estimates that the note will sell for \$30,000 to \$35,000. (The Washington Post)

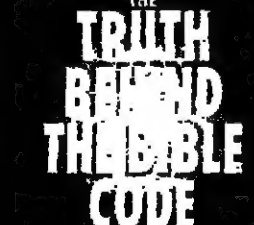
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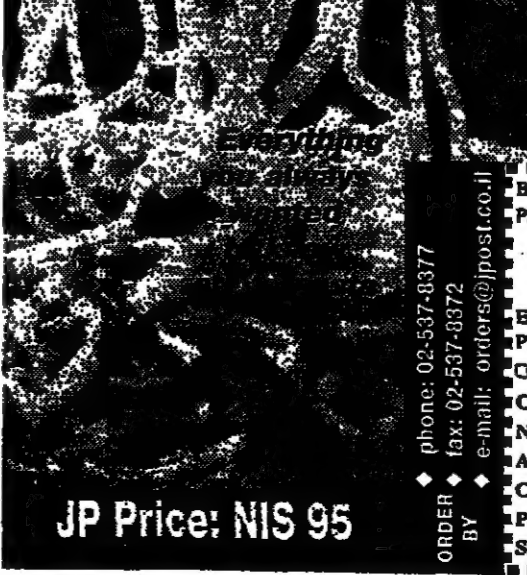
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Early count shows close call in Indian election

By SANJEEV MIGLANI

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — India's general election looked set to be a close-run contest yesterday as the first trends in vote-counting trickled out.

The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the front-runner throughout the election campaign, and its allies led the race as the unfinished counts for the 543 parliamentary seats at stake were announced.

Its arch-rival, the Congress party, was second and the 15-party United Front, whose fall triggered India's second national election in as many years, brought up the rear.

Exit polls at the weekend showed no one group emerging with a clear majority, and political analysts said India's search for a stable government would be a long haul.

Of the 268 constituencies from which clear trends in counting had emerged by early evening, the BJP and its allies led in 116, Congress and its allies in 74 and the United Front in 55.

Independents and small parties, which could play a crucial role in the case of a hung parliament, were ahead in 11 seats.

The first two seat victories of the

day went to the BJP, putting it on a par with Congress which won two seats in an early count in the north-eastern state of Meghalaya last week.

The BJP, riding on the back of old and some new-found allies, was making first-time gains in southern states. However it appeared to have lost ground in its western strongholds of Maharashtra and Rajasthan to Congress.

The Congress, dumped from power by voters in the 1996 elections amid allegations of corruption and internal divisions, was clawing back in select areas, but was still behind in the northern state of Punjab and in Karnataka in the south.

The party's fortunes were lifted ahead of the elections after Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of former premier Rajiv Gandhi, agreed to campaign on its behalf.

No trends were yet available from the giant northern states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which between them make up a little less than a quarter of the seats in parliament.

Counting of some 300 million votes nationwide was set to continue into the night under heavy guard. A clear picture of where the

rival parties stand is expected by Tuesday evening.

But both the BJP and Congress were already casting about for allies after exit polls on Saturday showed no one party or group could reach the halfway-line of 272 seats to form a government.

The right-wing BJP, making its strongest bid for power in its controversial history, won a morale-boosting victory after the Supreme Court threw out an appeal by government prosecutors against a lower court decision acquitting party President Lal Krishna Advani of bribery charges.

"For me, it is a pleasant coincidence... the supreme court had a month ago reserved its judgment," Advani said on Star television.

The \$18-million bribery and money laundering scandal had ensnared several Indian politicians and bureaucrats.

Advani is not the BJP's nominee for prime minister. Atal Behari Vajpayee, seen as a moderate in a party which includes hardliners, has been projected for the top job.

"We are confident of getting a clear majority," BJP spokesman Venkaiah Naidu told reporters as the counting trends filtered slowly out.



Election officials count votes behind a wire fence in Bombay yesterday.

(AP)

Kosovo flares up after police kill 16

By JOVAN KOVACIC

PRISTINA, Serbia (Reuters) — Serbian police armed with tear gas, water cannons and clubs waded into thousands of protesters demonstrating in Pristina yesterday against the weekend killings of 16 Kosovo Albanians by police.

Dozens of demonstrators were clubbed when they tried to flee as police moved in to prevent them reaching the city center.

At least 10 police officers charged into the offices of the local newspaper *Koha Ditore* in pursuit of protesters. One of its journalists broke his leg when he leapt from a window to escape them.

Vetan Surroi, the paper's chief editor and a leading ethnic Albanian political activist in Kosovo, was beaten in a separate incident near Pristina's city radio station and representatives of Western news organizations were also attacked.

Unconfirmed reports said security forces sealed off the Vranjavac area of Pristina and moved in anti-terrorist units after shots were fired.

Organizers claimed that up to 50,000 Albanians obeyed calls from their political leaders to join the protest, one of the biggest since Serbia's southernmost province was stripped of its autonomous status by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in 1989.

The mainly-Muslim Albanians outnumber Orthodox Serbs by nine to one among the two million population of Kosovo, which has been a source of dispute between the two nationalities for centuries.

The weekend killings, in which four policemen also died, risked becoming a turning point in Kosovo's escalating nationalist violence.

Albanian political leaders waging a campaign of civil disobedience to win restored autonomy have come under increasing pres-



Serbian police beat ethnic Albanians during riots in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo province yesterday.

(AP)

sure following the emergence of the clandestine Kosovo Liberation Army (LAK).

LAK militants, impatient with the absence of political progress and Milosevic's refusal to negotiate, have tried to force the pace with attacks on Serb police targets and Albanians accused of collaborating with Belgrade.

Western countries which have failed so far in efforts to coax Milosevic into a compromise are concerned that LAK violence undermines the credibility of the Albanian political leadership.

Attacks on Serb security forces

also provide Belgrade with a legitimate excuse to crack down on suspected Albanian extremists.

There is a fear that the situation could spin out of control and endanger the stability of the Balkans, still fragile in the aftermath of the breakup of former Yugoslavia and the war in Bosnia.

NATO sources in Brussels said alliance ambassadors were expected to discuss the situation yesterday and hinted that Milosevic risked the renewal of international sanctions if he intensified his action in Kosovo.

In Tirana, Albania's opposition

Democratic Party urged the West to intervene immediately to prevent a conflict in Kosovo, while also calling for restraint from ethnic Albanians.

The latest violence began on Friday evening when security forces intercepted a car carrying LAK members in central Kosovo.

Official Serb sources said there were more incidents early yesterday, with grenades thrown at Serb houses in towns and villages in central Kosovo. No casualties were reported.

Police said five Albanians were arrested over the weekend and

Serbian state television showed large quantities of captured weapons and ammunition.

In condolences to the families of the dead policemen, Milosevic urged Albanians to abstain from bloodshed and warned that "terrorism aimed at the internationalization (of the Kosovo) issue would be most harmful to those who had resorted to these means."

The flare-up occurred less than a week after US Balkans envoy Robert Gelbard visited the province to try to reopen a dialogue between the two communities.

Blair on defensive following rural protest

By JOHN MORRISON

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's Labor government, wrongfooted by the success of a huge march by countryside supporters, yesterday played down suggestions that it might set up a new ministry to handle rural issues.

A spokesman said Prime Minister Tony Blair had not addressed the idea, floated by some Labor figures, of reshaping his government to defuse the rural protest.

A quarter of a million protesters marched through central London on Sunday to oppose a proposed ban on foxhunting and what they see as government neglect of rural and farmers' interests.

At present countryside issues are handled by Michael Meacher, the environment minister, who has no seat in the cabinet. Agriculture minister Jack Cunningham is responsible for farm issues; he does have a cabinet seat.

On Sunday the two ministers appeared at odds, with Meacher attending the march while Cunningham denounced it.

But yesterday Cunningham told BBC radio:

"Any government that did not take notice of the size and scale of such a demonstration would be failing in its duty. The government has been listening and has been making changes in policy and we shall continue to do so."

Blair's spokesman confirmed that the government would refuse to step in to rescue a controversial bill to ban foxhunting.

Despite massive support from Labor MPs, the bill, introduced by Labor backbencher Michael Foster, is thought certain to fail because of lack of parliamentary time.

"There is no question of government time in this session for the foxhunting bill," Blair's spokesman said, describing the measure as not a priority for the

government's future legislative plans.

If the foxhunting bill lapses, anger over the issue may fade, giving the government a breathing space. The party says its broad policies will help rural communities, particularly in poorer areas.

Blair's spokesman said Labor was elected last May "to govern for the whole country and we believe we're doing that."

He acknowledged that farmers were facing a real problem because of falling incomes, caused partly by the strong pound sterling.

Labor, traditionally an urban party, now has more than 100 MPs representing rural constituencies, many of them elected by narrow majorities.

Last week, in the run-up to the march, the government unveiled a string of concessions on rural issues, including extra cash for farmers and more protection for village schools.

The opposition Conservative party will attack Labor's policy on the countryside today in a House of Commons debate.

"It's only in the last 10 days that the government has started to take any notice of rural people whatsoever," party leader William Hague told reporters at Sunday's march.

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Yeltsin places ally in charge of CIS affairs

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin yesterday named Ivan Rybkin, his top security official and ally, as a new deputy prime minister overseeing relations with former Soviet republics.

Ivan-Tass news agency quoted the president's press secretary Sergei Yastrzhembsky as saying Rybkin, secretary of Russia's Security Council, would replace Valery Serov — one of three ministers

sacked over the weekend. Rybkin won prominence as a key negotiator in talks between the Kremlin and the breakaway southern region of Chechnya.

"He proved himself very well over Chechnya," Tass quoted Yeltsin as telling Russian journalists in the Kremlin. "You can trust him."

Tens of thousands of people died during Moscow's military cam-

paign launched in December 1994 to quell Chechnya's independence bid. The war ended in a peace deal, struck in August 1996, under which Russia pulled out its troops.

Chechnya says it will settle for nothing short of full independence. Moscow wants to negotiate terms under which the breakaway province will agree to remain part of the Russian Federation.

Tass quoted Yastrzhembsky as

saying Yeltsin also named Yuri Mikhailov as transport minister and Alexander Tikhonov as education minister. Both were deputies to ministers dismissed along with Serov at the weekend.

Yeltsin, who strongly criticized the cabinet last week for a poor performance in 1997, told reporters yesterday that the dismissals did not signal a big cabinet overhaul.



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It's not easy in the 'Big Easy'

Mardi Gras celebrations pose a particularly difficult challenge for New Orleans' recovering alcoholics

By JESSE KATZ

NEW ORLEANS — At one end of Canal Street, the Krewe of Bacchus was parading through an orgy of booze and flesh and beads and jazz, weaving and chugging and jiggling and strutting, its path marked by a rous of suds and trash.

At the other end of Canal, three dozen men and women were praying for the serenity and courage and wisdom to get them through it all — this being Mardi Gras, a celebration for more than a million revelers but an awkward and sometimes anguished benchmark for the New Orleans chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The motto hanging on the wall, "Easy Does It," is not quite the same as the "Big Easy." "Could I get a moment of silence for us?" said Cathi E., 49, who like other AA members asked that the organization's tradition of anonymity be preserved. Before leaving Grace Lutheran Church and stepping back into the Sunday night madness, they formed a circle, held hands and renewed their commitment to staying dry for one more day.

"Keep coming back," Cathi implored them. "It works, if you let it. If you don't, you die."

Alcoholics here call Mardi Gras

their "hurricane season," a reference to the tempestuous challenges of sobriety — as well as to the magenta, high-octane, frozen concoction wetting thousands of lips. In truth, the storms started brewing at Thanksgiving, built up pressure over Christmas and New Year's, then began lashing New Orleans with the start of carnival two weeks ago, until today's ultimate blow-out — Fat Tuesday — turned the city into the wettest and wildest Bacchanalia this side of Rio.

"It's really one of the hardest times of the year for people in recovery to cope with," said Clyde B., 50, a New Orleans native who sells industrial equipment. "Some other holidays are a bit more family-oriented, or spiritual, or perhaps patriotic. But Mardi Gras is about drinking and letting it all hang out. That keeps us in a bit of emotional upheaval." He has survived the season sober for 14 years now, usually by joining fellow AA members for coffee at home, rather than risking a slip-up on the city's well-lubed streets.

"It's not that I walk around every day with a burning thirst in my throat," he explained. "I'm not on the verge of a drink. But I also don't really know what it would take to set me off and put me back

where I was. That's one of the scary parts of being a recovering alcoholic. Drinking is just part of the way of life here, part of the culture, part of our heritage."

Most major US cities measure themselves in the language of progress — the tallest, the strongest, the richest, the fastest. Civic pride in New Orleans is a reflection of its ability to resist those pressures — to eat, drink, be merry. New Orleansians, as a local guidebook politely puts it, are "addicted to the art of living well." Nobody is learning that faster than John King, who left Charlotte, N.C., last year to become the executive director of New Orleans' Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Asked why he took on such a battle, given the city's propensity to party, King deadpanned: "Job security."

A billboard with AA's hot-line number greets visitors at the airport — right next to ads for historic Antoine's Restaurant (whose wine cellar boasts more than 25,000 bottles) and for buxom lounge owner Chris Owens (whose French Quarter shop includes a free drink with the price of admission).

The phones are fairly quiet right now, but Mary Ellen, the execu-

tive secretary for Alcoholics Anonymous of Greater New Orleans, predicts a flood of calls just after carnival, a Latin term loosely translated as "farewell to flesh."

"Not on Wednesday, because people are still hung over, sleeping it off," she said. "But by Thursday and Friday, the shame and guilt and remorse will have set in. For a lot of people, Mardi Gras is their bottom."

James M., a 56-year-old lawyer, remembers those days. Sort of. "To me, drinking and Mardi Gras went together," said James, who has been sober 17 years. "I assumed that the only people who didn't drink were religious fanatics, or otherwise culturally or socially deprived." As a member of a prestigious law firm, he gained access to Mardi Gras krewes, invitations to Mardi Gras balls, seats on Mardi Gras floats. "It's one of the most exciting things you can ever do," he said. "Of course, I was virtually blind." He stayed that way for most of the '70s, blacking out, waking up in jail cells and strange motels, downing a fifth of liquor every day just to get himself right.

"I think people who can drink ought to drink," he said. "Alcohol

brings great joy to most men and women." But for about 10 percent of the nation's population, the diversion eventually descends into necessity. "For me, it was like, where's the party gone?" James said. "It was fun, then it wasn't fun anymore."

He does not believe that New Orleans exceeds that average, or that a drinker here is any more likely to end up as an alcoholic. But he does believe that New Orleans makes it harder for alcoholics to recognize their condition — and then do something about it. "Heavy drinking is not considered a problem here," he said. "It's considered a Southern eccentricity." Which is not to say that New Orleans can't occasionally be accommodating to the sober. In 1980, it was the unlikely host of the international AA convention, attended by 30,000 clear-eyed delegates from around the world.

Advised that recovering alcoholics sometimes share a ferocious sweet tooth, striptease bars in the French Quarter stocked their freezers with plenty of ice cream — and required nondrinking patrons to consume a two-scoop minimum.

But more often than not, the city's love affair with liquor is

blind. Charlie B., 60, a founding member of Bacchus before his drinking made it physically impossible for him to ride on a float, tells the story of a French Quarter dive that delighted in kicking 12-steppers off of the wagon.

The establishment, which he declined to name, had a practice of giving a free drink to anyone who brought in a one-year chip — the quarter-sized tokens that AA members use to mark their first anniversary of sobriety.

Charlie knows. He used to drink there during his Jack Daniels days and saw more than a few chips get deposited into a big brassy snifter, stationed behind the bar like a trophy.

"I guess people thought it was clever or cute," Charlie said. For a while, he did, too. But after Charlie sobered up 11 years ago, he returned to even the score. "I went out and bought a ton of one-year chips — a thousand of them, actually — and started passing them out to winos," said Charlie, a former Tulane University research psychologist. Before long, the bar was flooded with drunks demanding free drinks and, needless to say, withdrew its offer.

Charlie still laughs at the thought of it. "One sick joke deserved another," he said.

For Tuesday's festivities, Charlie planned to be snug at home, watching TV. Cathi, who felt like he needed to look the demon in the eye, was considering a stroll to the French Quarter. "I'll go down real early and hopefully not get too contaminated," he said.

At Mardi Gras, there is no easy answer to the question of how close a recovering alcoholic can — or should — get to the flame. James recalls his surprise upon learning that the bartender at the famous Sazerac bar (who served him many a sazerac) was in AA. "When I got sober, I asked him how he managed to do it," James said. "He said, 'If I was a garbage man, would I eat the garbage?'" But Mary Ellen also points out that alcohol is a cunning and bewildering foe, a trickster that can make the drinker lie to himself just as easily as to others. And for that she offers a more cautionary axiom: "If you go to a barbershop often enough, you're going to get a haircut." (Los Angeles Times)

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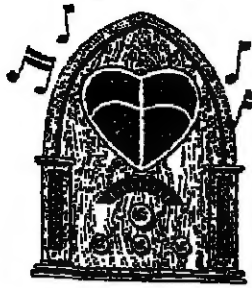
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Pearl Jam's street poetry

In Tune



By David Brinn

Pearl Jam continues to set the agenda and the tone of 1990s rock. Whether taking on Ticketmaster, the demons of fame, or corporate sponsors, the band faithfully carries the 1960s torch of integrity and dedication.

Eddie Vedder and company's relative inactivity for the last two years has raised many questions as to how relevant or committed

YIELD

Pearl Jam

(NMC)

WOMAN IN ME

Louise

(NMC)

Pearl Jam still is to its craft. But one listen to its fifth disc, *Yield*, will erase any doubts as to its rock 'n' roll inspiration. From the hard rock blast of "Brain of J." to the thoughtful "All Those Yesterdays," *Yield* shows a band brimming with confidence and ideas.

This is the first Pearl Jam disc in which singer/songwriter Vedder has taken a step back to let the other band members contribute songs. This loosening of his creative hold has had a healthy effect, as the album contains some of the most mature, thoughtful yet rocking material the band has produced in its career.

Vedder's voice warbles, cracks and is uncompromisingly real, as is the rest of the band, which provides an astounding palette of sounds and styles. Vedder's lyrics still sound stilted at times and he still can't crack a joke, but you won't hear nary an "I love you" or one of the usual rock clichés in his street poetry.

The single "Given to Fly" builds momentum into a crashing crescendo that is among the band's finest recorded moments. The



Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder (right) has taken a step back to let the other band members contribute songs.

song echoes the feel of U2's classic *Joshua Tree* sound but with turbo power.

When it slows the tempo and lowers the volume, the results are even more impressive. "Wishlist" and "Lowlight," with its folksy harmonies as gentle as Crosby, Stills and Nash, only serve to emphasize the growth the band continues to undergo. The two or three substandard songs detract from the overall grand effect, but don't ruin an album that is among the band's most straightforward and most accomplished.

AS FAR as lightweight teen pop goes, Louise is not bad. The former beacon of the successful Britpop band Eternal has forged a successful solo career, with *Woman in Me* catapulting her into the pop charts and into the Britpop Awards for Best Female Vocalist.

She treads in the dance-heavy, thought-lite territory that Madonna abandoned a dozen years ago. And she does it well. The themes are (what else?) puppy love, the production is impeccable, and she even has the good taste to cover an old Average

White Band tune. Eminently hummable, and eminently forgettable.

MAYBE IT'S my advanced age, but are the Grammys getting better? Perhaps the changes incorporated by the academy in recent years regarding who votes for the nominees results in people who actually know something about music picking the lists instead of music industry executive backs. In any event, this year's event was not the usual fiasco. The nominees and the winners had ties to quality music instead of sales, resulting in

victories for Bob Dylan, The Wallflowers featuring his son Jakob, classy songstress Sarah McLachlan, Erykah Badu and Shaun Colvin, and rock legend John Fogerty.

As one who has been unjustly passed over for years, Fogerty put it best: "If you live long enough, you'll win a Grammy."

The challenge of the Grammys, now that they finally seem to be recognizing talent, is to recognize it a bit earlier so people like Dylan and Fogerty don't have to suffer the indignity of waiting 30 years to pick up their awards.

NEWS

of the muse

Schoenberg festival

The renowned conductor Zubin Mehta leads the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert to open the first Schoenberg Festival, in Vienna on March 14.

The six-day festival will feature concerts, conversations and exhibitions celebrating the opening of the Arnold Schoenberg Center in Vienna.

Michael Aizenstadt

Zubin Mehta



Argerich to arrive

Renowned pianist Martha Argerich will be a guest of honor at the ninth Arthur Schnitzler International Master Piano Competition taking place in Tel Aviv this month.

Argerich, one of the most sought-after pianists of our time, will play sonatas by Schumann, Prokofiev and Shostakovich with cellist Mischa Maisky (March 27) and will join the members of the jury for the final stage of the competition. Her performance should be one of the most exciting musical events of the year.

Michael Aizenstadt

Saul and David at the Rubin Academy

To celebrate our jubilee, Tel Aviv's Rubin Music Academy is planning a fully staged production of Danish composer Carl Nielsen's biblical opera *Saul and David*.

This somewhat lengthy opus is seldom performed, and local music lovers will be able to enjoy a work which has some very beautiful musical passages and follows the biblical story quite closely.

Performances - in English - will take place in the second half of May.

Michael Aizenstadt

Sexual paradigms at Mishkenot

The Mishkenot Sha'ananim Guest House in Jerusalem has announced the 1998 conference within the Encounters for Religion and Culture program.

The Sexual Divide Human and Divine, Literary Theological and Cultural Paradigms will take place in the guest house April 11-19, when distinguished academics from all over the world will address questions of "how religious and cultural constructs based upon binary structures interact with each other focusing on the issue of sexual differentiation as it appears in various cultural and literary texts and structures down through the ages and into the present day."

Michael Aizenstadt

Concertgebouw Orchestra to open Israel Festival

Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra will be in Israel this May under the baton of Riccardo Chailly for two concerts - one in Jerusalem, the other in Tel Aviv - to open this year's Israel Festival.

Michael Aizenstadt

Gergiev goes to Germany

The newly inaugurated concert hall in Baden-Baden, Germany, will officially open with a series of festive concerts in mid-April.

The opening concert features the World Orchestra for Peace under Valery Gergiev playing music by Brahms, Bartok and Mendelssohn (April 18).

The following day Vladimir Ashkenazy leads the Czech Philharmonic in music by Brahms and Dvorak.

On April 20, Kurt Sanderling conducts the Bamberg Symphony in works by Beethoven and Mozart, and on April 21 the celebrations conclude with John Eliot Gardiner leading the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain in music by Janacek and Mahler.

Events in the new auditorium resume May 29 with the opening of the first Baden-Baden festival, in which the Jerusalem String Quartet performs among a host of internationally renowned musicians.

Michael Aizenstadt

The greatest story ever - on tour

Rina Yerushalmi's stunningly dramatized biblical exegesis, *Vayomer Vayelech*, has started its '98 touring season at the Adelaide Festival in Australia.

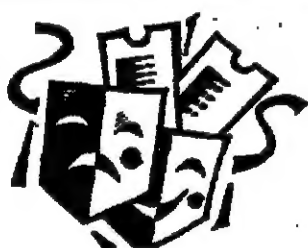
Following that, it's off to the Kennedy Center in Washington where, together with the Batsheva Dance Company, it will be part of the Israel Jubilee celebrations there.

Yerushalmi and her *Itim* ensemble are preparing Part 2, *Vayishlach Vaya'ar*, which will have its world premiere in Hamburg in September and locally in November.

Helen Kaye

When drama verges on pornography

Theater Roundup



By Naomi Doudai

As is inevitably the case with Fringe Fever, the recent proliferation of productions is not of even quality. If Notzar's *Penthesilea* made lots of noise and little impact, Habimah's *Anna Weiss* is little better. Recycling the case of a British

psychotherapist guilty of a vicious type of malpractice termed false memory syndrome, this young

ANNA WEISS

By Mike Cullen
Directed & translated by Oded Kotler
Bismartel, Habimah

Scottish playwright has written what, in this version at any rate, is more the melodramatization of a casebook than a socio-psychological play.

Alex Feleg manages a credibly distraught father wrongly accused of raping his daughter (Yael Hader). But Rosina Kambus, lamentably miscast as said shrink, explodes in a series of hysterical tirades that culminate in a bash-

and-bawl contest with both victims. Worse still is the textual focus on the juicy details of multiple rape. Their gratuitous inclusion smacks suspiciously of sensation-seeking porno.

THE TRANSFER of this long-censored cynical Soviet novel to the Hebrew stage in a richly worded, dynamically performed monodrama culminates in another

MOSCOW-PETUSHKI

From a novel by Venedikt Yerofeyev
Translation by Nili Mirski
Directed by George Mitenesson
Teatva 2, Tel Aviv

er nonstop tirade. Here, however, the tendency to overact is tem-

pered by the unswerving sincerity and profoundly artistic intent of imaginative and original direction.

Gil Amitai, a highly expressive actor, troubled by a disturbing vocal mannerism, repeatedly mars his presentation with a dark and deeply rasping bass. His romantic, anti-Soviet Russian hero on a drinking spree on a local train does, however, manage a moving portrait of the trials and tribulations of an outer life that masks the rebellious, spiritual tenor of a tempestuous inner existence.

THE PARGOD, a tubelike cavern on Bezael Street, is one of the last hideouts of old-time nightclub cabaret. The Herzi show, dubbed "a musical satire," if short in present-day standards of sophistica-

tion, has a certain refreshing, naive charm.

Five performers of varying professional quality - Carmit Arditi,

A SPIDER ON HERZL'S BROW

Written & directed by Aryeh Marc
Music by Yossi Mar-Haim
Pargod Theater, Jerusalem

Chagi Yisraeli, Gadi Levy, Zohar Sadeh, and Rinat Emanuel - contrive to contribute the music and movement stage skills necessary to support a full-scale musical. With Yossi Mar-Haim himself pounding on a honky-tonk piano in lieu of "orchestra," his delightful score gets the quasi-operatic treatment it certainly deserves.

The wizardry of Giora Feidman

CONCERT REVIEW

In its farewell concert before its European tour, the Israel Camerata gave the first performance of two Hassidic-inspired Israeli clarinet works by Betty Olivero and Noam Sheriff. Conducted by Ayner Biron, the works were sandwiched in awkwardly between symphonies by Haydn and Mozart.

In her *Golem Suite*, Olivero takes a rest from her modernist aspirations, by staying close to the Hassidic folkloric idiom. Composed originally as film music, it presumably may sound effective when listened to simultaneously with the screening. On tour, it is likely to appeal to the European taste for exotism, and to the current philosemitic trend of some of the German intelligentsia.

In *A Hassid's Reward* (*Gomel Le'ish Hassid*), Sheriff explores the deepest reaches of the bass-clarinist, contrasting their skill-

THE ISRAEL CAMERATA

Works by Haydn, Mozart, Sheriff and Olivero
Giora Feidman - clarinet
Ayner Biron - conductor
The Jerusalem Theater
February 22

fully with the usually untapped potentialities of its highest register. The piece moves from a meditative to an animated mood.

Short of pulling rabbits out of the instrument, there was hardly

anything that clarinet wizard Giora Feidman did not accomplish. Manipulating four instruments, he made them sing, whine, giggle, slide, caress and pierce, while performing his familiar antics of foot stamping and flitting with the audience.

In Mozart's Symphony No. 40, one could almost hear the orchestra pray during the attempted horn solo - but to no avail. The work had better be shelved until some refurbishing is achieved, rather than subjecting a European audience to the orchestra's weak points.

An authentic flamenco tribute to Lorca

DANCE REVIEW

Mario Maya, dancer and choreographer, dedicated this program to the monumental Spanish poet and playwright Federico Garcia Lorca. It is an obvious choice, as Maya's dances and Lorca's poetry both deal with pain, death, love and pride.

The flamenco dances of Maya's,

like Lorca's poetry, adhere to their cultural heritages but at the same time distance themselves from formal traditional frames. Maya keeps the true spirit of the authentic flamenco that he grew up with as a Gypsy child in the south of Spain.

Too often, flamenco dance companies slide toward the commercial with bells and whistles geared for tourists. Mario Maya goes to the dark side at the heart of flamenco and touches the raw nerves; he deals with complex emotions and brings dramatic ten-

MARIO MAYA & COMPANY

"The Flamencos Dance and Sing Lorca"
Haifa Auditorium,
February 23

sion to the stage with the help of a small but very good group of dancers, singers and musicians.

His creative dance vocabulary spans beyond the traditional phrases, although he allows for some well-loved virtuoso clichés.

The success of the evening was also due to the talent of the terrific singers Segundo Falcon and Arcangel who sang their hearts out, and to dancers Israel Galvan, Rafael Campallo and Rafaela Carrasco.

The most outstanding dancer was Isabel Bayon, who can compete with the best of them. She is as wild and sexy as but more graceful than the legendary flamenco dancer La Tati, and she has the depth and maturity required for the "dark" and severe side of the dance.

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A job for Europe

In case anyone might forget, Lebanon constantly reminds us of its presence. It happened again on Thursday, when three Givati soldiers were killed by a Hizbullah mortar attack on an outpost in the security zone.

On Sunday, the cabinet had the last of a series of discussions on this subject, and made another push for the government's latest initiative based on UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The Resolution 425-based initiative was first unveiled by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in a January interview with the magazine *Al-Watan Al-Arabi*. The Israeli embrace of the 1978 resolution, which calls upon Israel to "immediately" withdraw its forces from Lebanon, raised some eyebrows. A simple reading of Resolution 425 points directly to a policy that successive Israeli governments have vehemently rejected — unilateral withdrawal.

Opposition leader Ehud Barak was quick to pick up on this, effectively accusing the government of slipping towards the unilateralist position of his Labor Party colleague, Yossi Beilin. Resolution 425, in typical lopsided United Nations fashion, does not mention Syria's military presence in Lebanon, which has remained massive since 15,000 Syrian troops invaded in 1976. Today, Syria maintains some 40,000 troops there, and shows no sign of leaving.

There are, however, elements of 425 that allow Israel to cobble together an interpretation that matches Israeli policy.

First, the resolution calls for "strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon." Though Syria is not referred to explicitly, as is Israel, Syria's suffocating control over Lebanese territory and government is in clear violation of this clause.

Second, as Israel's UN Ambassador Dore Gold explains in a January 28 letter to the UN secretary-general, "Israel is prepared to implement the withdrawal envisaged in the Resolution, but only within a framework that will ensure the implementation of all elements of the Resolution, including implementation of UNIFIL's expressly stated goals of the 'restoring of international peace and security' and 'assisting the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area.'"

Since the Mordechai interview and the Gold letter, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has

added his own voice in support of implementing 425.

The issue was also no doubt a central topic during Netanyahu aides Dan Naveh and Uzi Arad's recent trip to Europe, ostensibly to discuss a possible reopening of negotiations with Syria.

It is, of course, the international community's tolerance for Syrian domination of Lebanon that will determine the fate of the Israeli initiative. Israel admits it is encroaching on Lebanese sovereignty, but from the beginning it has been clear that Israel would like nothing better than to be out of Lebanon, once the northern border is secure.

While Israel's presence in Lebanon is clearly defensive, and limited territorially, Syria's presence is all-encompassing and open-ended. Syria regards Lebanon as part of Syria in all but name, so much that it does not even maintain an embassy in Beirut.

When asked about this anomaly, Syrian officials reply that relations are so close, there is no need for an embassy. But with friends like Syria, Lebanon does not need enemies.

Realistically, however, Syrian presence in Lebanon is not and will not be on the table in the near future. It is a different matter, however, to allow Syria to continually veto Lebanese efforts to take control over its own territory in order to facilitate an Israeli withdrawal. Israel, in effect, is the party most interested in restoring Lebanese sovereignty, while the Lebanese and Syrian governments have become the real obstacles to implementing Resolution 425.

It is here that the Europeans, who have recently been banging on the doors of the peace process and asking for equal access and influence, have a golden opportunity to prove themselves. France, in particular, has close historical ties to both Lebanon and Syria, and should have a special interest in restoring Lebanese sovereignty.

By accepting Resolution 425, Israel is not endorsing the concept of unconditional withdrawal, but it is signaling that Israel's departure need not wait for a full peace agreement with Lebanon or Syria. Now the commitment of France and other nations that have championed Lebanese sovereignty will be put to the test: Were they just paying lip service, or will they press Lebanon and Syria into giving the Israeli initiative a chance?



The courts can err

EVELYN GORDON

Last week, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein ordered the police to probe Israel Bar Association chairman Dror Hotei-Yishay for defamation of the court, on account of his response to his conviction for tax evasion the previous week.

That an indictment will soon follow is a foregone conclusion, since Hotei-Yishay unquestionably made the remarks attributed to him — they have been recorded and replayed by all the country's media. Nor is there any question that an indictment will be welcomed by good-government groups, politicians and at least some lawyers, all of whom have expressed outrage at Hotei-Yishay's remarks and advocated criminal proceedings.

There is, however, one serious question which no one seems to have bothered asking: Why should it be a crime to criticize the court?

Like the legislature or the executive, the court system is merely another branch of government, run by ordinary, fallible human beings. No one considers it criminal to attack the manners, morals or functioning of the prime minister. If it were, much of the country would probably be in jail right now. What makes the court system different?

The answer given by Rubinstein, and by other attorney-generals before him, is that attacks on the court are criminal when they undermine the public's faith in the legal system, because without such faith, no democracy can function properly.

Certainly the latter half of this statement is true, but it is equally true that no democracy can function without faith in its other organs of government. The question is whether penalizing criticism is the best method of shoring up the public's faith, or whether, as in the case of the other arms of government, the negative consequences of stifling criticism outweigh the benefits.

Surprisingly, this question is easiest to answer in the case of more

egregious attacks, such as those for which Hotei-Yishay is now being investigated. He called the verdict against him "stupid," said the indictment was "a mark of shame" on the legal system, and accused the court of "collusion" with the prosecution. However, he is hardly the first convicted person to make such accusations, and will undoubtedly not be the last. To say that people's faith in the court system will be undermined by the outbursts of a convicted criminal — even if he is also chairman of the Bar — is to insult the public's intelligence.

What is far more likely to undermine the public's faith is serious, substantive criticism of the courts' functioning. Yet this is precisely the type of criticism that is essential for a healthy democracy, and should therefore be encouraged. And the real danger of a law against criticizing the court is that it can too easily be used to deter substantive critiques as well — not only via the actual application of legal sanctions, but via the aura of moral disrepute which such a law confers on any criticism.

Indeed, Hotei-Yishay himself provided evidence of this in his *New York Times* interview, in which he gave a lengthy, thoughtful and very substantive critique of the Supreme Court.

He charged that the court had usurped decision-making powers which were properly the function of the legislature, by asserting the right to overturn government actions which it considered unreasonable. He said the court was too busy making legislative decisions that it had no time for its real work of adjudicating disputes.

He called against the court's penchant for establishing moral norms, saying an unelected court should not have the power to determine the nation's values.

All of these are crucial questions regarding what role the courts should play in a democracy, and

are worthy of extensive and open debate.

Instead, good-government groups and politicians from across the political spectrum demanded that Hotei-Yishay be indicted for his "crude outburst" and "unrestrained attacks."

To his credit, then attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair refused, but the damage had already been done: Since a crime clearly existed for which Hotei-Yishay could have been indicted, he was instead tried by the press and politicians, and unanimously convicted.

The idea that the courts, and especially the Supreme Court, must be treated as above reproach in public discourse, is one of the most bizarre aspects of Israeli democracy. Legal rulings are, after all, made by human beings, and human beings are eminently fallible.

It is precisely for this reason that all court systems, including Israel's, include a right of appeal against potentially flawed verdicts — and this is also why verdicts are sometimes overturned.

To demand infallibility is to demand the one thing no court system can deliver — and there is no surer way to undermine the public's faith in the courts than to create an expectation which cannot possibly be met. It would be far better to acknowledge that the court system is merely another arm of democratic government, whose proper role is a fit subject for debate; and that the president of the Supreme Court is no more incapable of being wrong than the prime minister.

Supreme Court rulings affect all of our lives; why should they be more immune from criticism than acts of the Knesset? The first step is to get rid of the antiquated, anti-democratic law which makes it a crime to criticize the courts. The next, and more important, step is to get rid of the public attitude which this law mirrors.

The writer comments on current affairs.

Allon's cultural pluralism

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

Our new minister of education and culture, who is also the new leader of the National Religious Party — Rabbi Yitzhak Levy — is a very pleasant, soft-spoken man, and those who know him assure us that he is a man of his word.

Levy has promised that there will be no religious coercion in the secular education system, and he will undoubtedly keep his word. Nevertheless, the thought that for the first time since the establishment of the state, the Ministry of Education and Culture is headed by a rabbi who would like Israel to turn into a nationalist, *Halacha* state, and is totally committed to Greater Israel while objecting both to the letter and spirit of the Oslo Accords makes one shudder.

Twenty-six years ago Israel's minister of education was Labor's Yigal Allon, spiritual father of the idea of territorial compromise and a great believer in pluralism. In the course of a special debate held in the Knesset on the subject of "Culture in Israel," on the occasion of the Knesset's 23rd anniversary, Allon, who passed away 18 years ago last month, had the following to say on the subject of cultural pluralism in Israel:

"What one should fear is not variety and different emphases in education as in culture, but the blurring of the self-image, amorphous mediocrity and loss of uniqueness. I never advocated in the past, and I do not advocate today the superficial concept known as 'the melting pot'."

"I would prefer using the term 'integrating' communities and dispersions, not 'merging' them. Even though our lives are frequently as burning and stormy as a melting pot, human beings are not inanimate metal, and a spiritual and cultural heritage is not some raw material, waiting to be

There is a difference between cross fertilization and cancelling the culture of the other

melted and reshaped. No one has the right to engineer the spirit and it cannot be engineered.

"And if one were to opt for the melting pot, one should remember that there is more than one mould. What is the Israeli mould? Everyone who lives in Israel, Arabs included. And even if one relates only to the Jewish mould, which of them? The religious? The secular? And as we all know, each of these is subdivided, with different roots and histories. The ramifications of all this on our culture are clear. The right of each community and of each individual to its uniqueness, as long as they seek it."

"...There is a difference between cross fertilization and cancelling the culture of the other, or its imitation out of self-denial. He who imitates, as opposed to he who absorbs, erases himself. In simple terms: unity — yes; uniformity — no."

"The pluralism of our society necessitates openness to those who are different than you, and mutual respect amongst the different. Where such mutual respect does not exist — intolerance flourishes. Intolerance raises suspicion, suspicion leads to alienation, and only one step separates alienation from violence. All parts of the society have things to contribute to each other and to learn from each other. Our pluralism is an historical fact and the wisdom of a multiple existence is a basic condition for our mere existence. In my opinion this problem is graver even than the external danger."

DOES Yitzhak Levy accept this definition of pluralism when he reassures the seculars that he accepts the pluralistic nature of Israeli society? The future will tell. However, the decision adopted several days ago by Meimad to return to political activity and possibly even run independently in the elections to the 15th Knesset, and this in reaction to Levy's election by the National Religious Party as the late Zevulun Hammer's heir, suggests that this moderate splinter of the national religious movement has its doubts.

However, if Levy's election in the NRP actually serves as the impetus for a successful relaunching of Meimad, perhaps we should all be grateful for it. In an era of political mediocrity, the flourishing of extremism and intolerance, it might well be that the religious Meimad, with its very special human makeup and approach, best exemplifies much of what Allon — the secular kibbutznik, military commander and labor movement leader — stood for.

The writer is a political scientist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LESS LUSTROUS

Sir, — Robert Bash (Letters, Feb. 6) suggests that Jonathan Rosenblum ought to write in a way that brings Jews closer to God and highlights the beauty of Torah-true life. Sonia Winter (Letters, Feb. 20) decries his idea, indicating that Rosenblum's task as a religious writer is to state the religious point of view to those who might not ordinarily get a chance to know it.

I disagree with Ms. Winter. The religious writer cannot offer often politically self-serving attacks, however articulate, and hope, simultaneously, to draw people closer to his case. A best, Rosenblum lashes out in defense of his own camp — some sure comfort to them, no doubt — but at the price of making the shiny jewel of Torah a little less lustrous to non-believers.

AVROM JACOBS

Kochav Yair.

GORE'S COMMITMENT

Sir, — In your otherwise thoughtful article on Al Gore ("The man who could be president," Jan. 30) you raise doubts about his father's commitment to Israel.

I would like to set the record straight. Like his son, Al Gore senior was the best friend Israel could hope to have. As a congressman and a senator from Tennessee, a state which is not inclined to support foreign aid for Israel, Gore set a pro-Israel tone for others to follow. He proudly supported the birth of the State of Israel while serving on the Appropriations Committee, and voted in favor of foreign aid to the fledgling state.

Clearly, Vice President Gore is following in the footsteps of his father when he demonstrates his unwavering commitment to Israel.

NOACH DEAR,

New York City Councilman.

New York.

PEACE PARTNERS

Sir, — On February 9, my son and I were returning from driving my husband to the airport early in the morning. We came back via Atarot because my son had promised to collect a couple of his Jewish workers from there — it was about 7:20 a.m. We were in a line of cars when suddenly we were attacked — a hail of boulders (not small stones) that were aimed at my son's head (maybe because he was wearing a kippa) by a group of teenagers.

The boys looked to be 16-year-olds. The street was full of Arabs — kids going to school, laughing at our terror; men going to work with eyes carefully averted — "they didn't see anything."

Not one of them came to help us. The rocks were aimed at my son's head, but fortunately got him on the shoulder. All the windows were broken and we were both covered in broken glass. We read so often that the ordinary Arab "man in the street" is not interested in violence. We met that "man in the street" last month and saw firsthand what kind of a peace partner we have.

That we were not killed was a miracle. Those rocks, had they reached their target, would have been just as lethal as bullets. Don't let's romanticize about how they all want peace. Anyone who has been attacked as we were can feel their hatred. They are just waiting for the right time.

DVORA WAYSMAN

Jerusalem.

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

Sir, — Your reader, Isaac Newman is wrong. The Arab refugee problem is not the consequence of the "founding of our state" as Newman puts it in his letter "Secondary victim" (Feb. 13). The Arabs left their homes, or had to leave them, when the armies of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia together attacked the newborn State of Israel with the stated objective to obliterate it and its inhabitants.

The 500,000-600,000 Palestinian refugees are not the "secondary victims" of the Holocaust but the victims of the blood-thirsty and short-sighted Arab leadership.

JOSEPH TURI

Holon.

TRAVEL FREELY

Sir, — I refer to Daoud Kuttub's article "Let us travel freely" (Feb. 15). I agree with him wholeheartedly. I too would like to be able to travel freely (i.e. without risk to my life) in Rafiah, Jenin and Ramallah.

I would also like to be assured that the Palestinian sitting next to me on the bus does not have an explosive waistcoat or some other means of killing unarmed women and children. The restrictions on travel are unpleasant for us all and it is not our wish to have to enforce them.

MIKE MORRIS

Ramat Gan.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 3, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported Nazi raids on Jewish citizens' offices throughout Germany on the pretext that the Jewish organizations were cooperating with Communists against the new regime.

50 years ago: On March 3, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that using light artillery and automatic weapons, British troops went into action against Arab gangs in the hills near Bab el-Wad following engagements between

Hagana patrols and the Arabs, at least 10 of whom were killed. The Hagana lost three men, whose bodies were recovered after the Arabs had been dispersed.

Alexander Zvielli

Handwritten signature: *Yitzhak Levy*

The Waldorf way: Learning while doing

Movement, imagination and imitation are the cornerstones of an alternative system of education that is slowly catching on here. Ruth Mason visited the Adam elementary school in Jerusalem

It's 8:15 a.m. in the first-grade classroom at Jerusalem's Adam School, and two things strike a visitor as unusual.

One: There's nothing harsh or synthetic to disturb the eye. Virtually everything — from the rugs to the soft fabrics that flow from the walls to chairs and tables to hand-sewn dolls and animals, baskets, beanbags and learning tools — is made of natural materials.

Two, and rather astonishing in the Israeli context: The some 30 six- and seven-year-olds in the class are sitting quietly, composed. Within this calm, almost womb-like environment teacher Eyal Bloch moves slowly from one pupil to another, shaking hands and greeting each one by name.

The Adam school with its 138 pupils, set up four years ago, is one of 2,000 Waldorf institutions worldwide. Part of an expanding phenomenon on Israel's alternative education scene, Waldorf is a system of education developed by German philosopher-scientist Rudolf Steiner and based on a "spiritual science" he called anthroposophy.

The system is based on an understanding of child development which holds that until age seven — when the baby teeth begin to fall out — a child's education needs to be focused exclusively on movement, imagination and the innate drive to imitate.

Between seven and 14 the emphasis shifts to emotion and aesthetics; only after age 14 — notably unlike conventional schooling — is stress laid on intellectual achievement. Teachers stay with the same class from grade one through grade eight.

AFTER A morning prayer accompanied by hand and body movements, Bloch asks the first-graders to run out of the classroom and around the yard. They re-enter for a music lesson, taking recorders out of homemade containers.

Adam's second-graders are practicing addition and subtraction — but they're throwing bean bags to each other while they do so. Third-

graders are out in the yard roofing a small house they have built; fourth-graders are off to pick olives they will later pickle.

Fifth-graders, meanwhile, are taking Bibles out of homemade wrappings to begin a reading lesson.

Across town in a Waldorf kindergarten, four-, five- and six-year-olds are wielding businesslike-looking saws and sanding wooden blocks. They are also busily weaving dolls' blankets and embroidering hand-sewn bags.

In the early grades of the system everything — including the alphabet, reading and math — is taught through movement, stories, art, music and crafts. Life skills like sewing, knitting, baking, gardening and making music receive as much emphasis as academic subjects.

The children learn by doing. They build model teepees, straw huts and wood and stone buildings to learn about housing around the world. They plant wheat, harvest it before Shavuot, winnow the wheat and grind it into flour to bake their own bread. They skip, jump, hop and run as they multiply and divide.

"When you do something you absorb it in your whole body," says Bloch. "You integrate it much more deeply than if you're just working with your head."

"When children are studying biology, we don't say, 'Open your books and read chapter five,'" explains Rina Miall, mother of a fourth-grader at Adam and a teacher in one of the nursery schools.

"The children go into the garden and plant a seed. They examine the roots. They learn what is involved in the whole process by going through it. Then they paint a flower."

THERE ARE two other Waldorf elementary schools in Israel, one in Tivon (through grade four) and one in Kibbutz Harduf (up to ninth grade). There are around a dozen kindergartens, several special-education institutions and two teachers' colleges. A group of parents is currently trying to start up a Waldorf school in Tel Aviv.

The schools are gradually finding their place in the state education system: last year Adam received official recognition as a state school, and the Waldorf Teachers' Seminary in Jerusalem became part of the prestigious David Yellin Teachers' College. According to painter and teacher Arieh Ben David, only one other Waldorf teachers' college in the world — in England — is affiliated with a regular teachers' college.

While pleased to have Waldorf aboard, David Yellin head Itay Zimran is not without doubts.

"People sometimes see them as extremists," he says. For example, "they refused to accept an electric piano for their eurythmy (movement) classes. We had to find them a real piano."

"Their world view is very artistic," Zimran goes on. But "if we can take the atmosphere of a Waldorf school and integrate it into a regular one we will have gained a lot."

Ora Flax (Lachovsky) has just begun supervising the Adam School for the ministry and says she is impressed by the teachers' dedication.

"Children need to feel loved," she says. "It's clear these teachers love the children."

PARENTS of Adam children are generally positive about the Waldorf experience.

"I like the fact that there is education going on here and not just learning," says Tali Shoshani, a founder of the school and parent of a fourth-grader. "The children learn to respect their teachers. They learn to help one another. They learn to respect the Torah."

"When Gal received her Torah scroll in third grade, she came home with her eyes shining. The first thing she did was take a piece of silk and sew a bag for it."

Shoshani's involvement with Waldorf education began eight years ago, when she pulled her son out of his nursery school in Ein Kerem after the teacher told her that he was "wicked." When a friend told her about the Waldorf school in Baka, she went to investigate.

She was enchanted by the kindergarten's physical appearance. "It felt soft and calm. The children played and no one yelled at them. And they went for a lot of walks."

After several months in the new nursery Shoshani felt her son was healing. "There was a lot of warmth and intuition. I felt the teachers understood him deeply."

Shoshani decided that her son had to continue in a Waldorf setting, so she and another parent lobbied the Ministry of Education and the Jerusalem Municipality for two years, finally gaining approval to open a Waldorf school in the city.

David Levy is a 37-year-old book editor who heard about Waldorf from a colleague while working in an institution for the retarded.

"When my son was born, I was clear that I wanted this kind of education for him," Levy says. "My feeling was that the teacher relates to something deep in the child."

"Creativity, openness, curiosity — these are the wonderful qualities we see in children that too often disappear when they grow up. Waldorf schools try to keep them alive."

"Our goal is that a child be free — not to do what he wants but to realize his potential," says Elisha Avshalom, translator of Steiner's books into English.

"If I'm a class teacher and all the children end up becoming anthroposophists, I'd have to ask myself what went wrong."

"If a few were to become newly religious, I'd know I had given them the tools to do what they needed to do."

Avshalom came to anthroposophy after a friend gave him Steiner's *How to Attain Knowledge of Higher Worlds*.

"Steiner's books gave me answers to questions I'd had for years," he says.

BUT NOT ALL parents give such glowing reports. One mother who removed her child from Adam after two years attributes her dissatisfaction to the teachers' lack of experience.



(Above) At the start of each day at the Waldorf school, Eyal Bloch moves slowly from one pupil to another, shaking hands and greeting each one by name. (Below) daily morning routine of movement, poetry and song. (Bottom) Bloch's first-grade students making beautiful music together with recorders, which they store in homemade containers. (Photos: Sari Uziel)

How it all began — in a cigarette factory

Waldorf education began in 1919 in Stuttgart, Germany, when Emil Molt, director of the Waldorf-Astoria cigarette factory, asked philosopher-scientist Rudolf Steiner to start a school for the workers' children.

Steiner, born in what was then Hungary and is now Croatia, had what he believed were extraordinary experiences from an early age. At university in Vienna he studied science, literature and philosophy, and afterwards edited the scientific works of Goethe.

Through his attempts to reconcile science and his personal occult experiences, Steiner founded anthroposophy, which he called a "spiritual science." By the time he died in 1925, Steiner had written some 50 books and given some 6,000 lectures, many of which were later published.

Besides Waldorf education, anthroposophy has given rise to a form of agriculture (biodynamic), a dance form (eurythmy), a type of medicine, a form of art and architecture, and a method for treating and educating the mentally retarded.

Anthroposophy was brought to Israel by German immigrants in the 1920s. For many years a handful of people would meet in Jerusalem to study Steiner's works. In the mid 1970s this small group experienced a spirit of growth as many young people joined it.

Simultaneously, anthroposophical ventures began in different places in Israel, notably Kibbutz Harduf in the north and Kfar Rafael in the south. Young people,

especially kibbutzniks who had read Steiner's books, began studying Waldorf education in England, Germany and Switzerland.

Talia Finn-Geller teachers eurythmy at the David Yellin teachers college and at the Kfar Rafael remedial community near Be'er Sheva. She thinks the growth of interest in anthroposophy and Waldorf education among Israelis is partly related to crises in Israel's history.

The first wave of interest, she notes, came after the Yom Kippur War, when Israelis went through a traumatic re-evaluation of themselves and their country. The second happened during the Lebanon War in 1982.

"Something crashed with Lebanon: the myth that we were a country that only defended itself, not one that attacked. It was a case of national crisis causing a crisis within individuals."

Rudolf Steiner's translator into Hebrew, Elisha Avshalom, notes that the inner turmoil Israelis experienced back then coincided with a general awakening of consciousness worldwide and a growth in spiritual search.

Anthroposophy is one road some Israelis took in that search, he says.

Waldorf kindergarten teacher Rina Miall, who grew up in Bremen, Germany, is one of a handful of Israeli adults raised in a Waldorf school.

"My parents, like many other Jews in our town, couldn't see themselves sending us to a regular German school after the war. They knew Waldorf schools honored all people. Our teachers always related to the Jewish holidays." — R.M.

Where to find Waldorf here

In addition to three schools, two teachers' seminars and about a dozen kindergartens the following anthroposophically-inspired organizations and institutions operate in Israel:

- ✓ Kibbutz Harduf in the Galilee: There is a school, a kindergarten, biodynamic agriculture, organic food products, an organic bakery, a remedial community for troubled children and a clinic.
- ✓ Kfar Rafael, near Beersheba: This is a 17-year-old remedial community for the retarded, who live and work with families. There is also a seminar for social therapy.
- ✓ The Eurythmy Academy in Beit Zayit trains

professional eurythmists.

- ✓ Beit Uri near Afeka: This is a special education facility for children.

- ✓ Tiltan (Jerusalem) and Michael (Tel Aviv) are publishers of the relevant literature in Hebrew.

- ✓ There is an anthroposophical clinic in Tivon.

- ✓ Hadvir is a class for retarded children aged seven to nine in Jerusalem.

- ✓ There are study groups in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Kiryat Tivon, Kibbutz Harduf, Rehovot and other areas.

- ✓ A group of parents is working toward opening a school in Tel Aviv.



"It's a beautiful way to start the day — and to start life."

Yesterday's news

Call me crazy, but wasn't there supposed to be a war this week? I could have sworn that "Persian Gulf War II" was penciled into my calendar.

There has to be some reason I've got stacks of plastic, tape, bottled water and cans of tuna fish, and a gas mask is sitting next to my bed within grabbing reach. I'd better go check my Filofax. I must have gotten my dates wrong.

I don't think I'm the only one who's feeling a little dazed and off balance. What seems truly odd is not that, in the end, Saddam Hussein did not lob anything at Israel on February 22, 23, or any date since. That fact is actually pretty wonderful. The truly surreal part is that there seems to be hardly a reminder left that there was such a crisis.

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

dent in Lebanon. Then there was the story of the attempted arms smuggling from Jordan, and so on and so on.

We have all moved on so quickly that the crowds at the gas-mask distribution stations, the jump in reservations for trips abroad, the outcry over the distribution of antibiotics seem far away, as if they were all just some sort of bad dream. It's as if we were all riding on a roller coaster that was gathering speed, hurtling to a frightening vertical drop, and then suddenly pulled into a nice horizontal, gentle ride. We're back to normal life, but our heads are still spinning from what we've experienced.

At least we have gained some perspective from the ordeal. When you consider what the alternative might have been, humdrum, ordinary boring

When you consider what the alternative might have been, humdrum, ordinary boring everyday life is a cause for joy

Our society seems to have contracted a case of short-term amnesia, the most serious cases belonging to us folks in the media. We're used to events moving fast in these parts, but this time the news cycles have spun ahead at what seems even more rapid than their usual dizzying speed.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan hadn't even gotten over his jet lag following his return from negotiating the agreement with Saddam that prevented a US attack on Iraq, when the names of both men were erased from the newspapers. (Speaking of his name, doesn't the UN leader's moniker translate prettily into Hebrew "Coffee Cloud"? It seems to me that it is only a matter of time before somebody opens a trendy new Tel Aviv espresso bar called Café Annan.) The reason Iraq was "pushed out of the headlines" was, of course, a new crisis: this time, the embarrassing Mossad foul-up in Switzerland and the ensuing resignation of Mossad chief Danny Yatom. And on the heels of this came another tragic inci-

everyday life is truly a cause for joy. I'm pretty glad I'm worrying about Purim outfits rather than biological warfare. (Has anyone figured out how to translate all this plastic and tape into a Purim costume? Could we dress up as the See-Through Power Ranger? A Gush Katif housewife? A giant prophylactic?)

I guess I'll get over it — that bizarre feeling I had over the weekend, when I was leafing through newspapers I haven't yet thrown out, which were predicting imminent Armageddon, and I looked out the window and the sun was shining, the sky was blue, and the world was at peace.

I guess I'll just take those two-week-old newspapers out to the trash heap and put them on top of the four-week-old papers — the ones forecasting that it was a matter of days until the Monica Lewinsky affair would force President Clinton to resign. And I'll go find my date book and cross out the weeks when I thought there was going to be a war — and pray that Saddam doesn't plan to reschedule.



Whatever you call it — 'expressive adrenaline' or 'solitude in motion' — it looks like the future for skateboarders lies in special city-owned parks. (Los Angeles Times/Robert Leckman)

California 'crimes'

By STEVE CHAWKINS

For a slice of the future for many California cities, look to Huntington Beach and listen above the clacking of the skateboards to a shrill, whip-thin high school senior with nipped rings and a puka shell necklace. "Big air! They're all going for big air, big grind, big slash," says Jesse Brunell, watching a young man in drooping camouflage pants execute a midair pirouette. "It's a way of life for just about everyone here. We're into what I call expressive adrenaline."

Brunell, a student playwright as well as an avid skateboarder, was taking a breather at the larger of two city-owned skateboard parks in the Los Angeles area — a patch of concrete that could soon become a familiar sight in communities around the state.

Seeking to placate angry skateboarders who have been banned from streets and sidewalks, local officials from across the US have come to Huntington Beach for guidance. The city built the first of its two parks in 1993, a pioneering move expected to be imitated widely now that a state law that exempts cities from most skateboarding lawsuits has gone into effect.

"I average three or four calls a day," says Bill Fowler, Huntington Beach's superintendent of recreation and community services. "I've sent out stuff to hundreds of cities."

Fowler likes to tell skidish out-of-town planners about the number of claims that injured skateboarders have filed against his city: zero. He also likes to chide cities that have turned up their noses at skateboarders. "Recreation isn't just for certain people," he says. "Skateboarding is a sport like any other, and skateboarders deserve a place to do their thing."

State Assemblyman Bill Morrow, a former skateboarder himself, couldn't agree more. After trying since 1993, the OceanSide Republican finally pushed through a bill declaring skateboarding a hazardous activity, like rock climbing or surfing. As a result, cities and counties can't be sued for injuries in skateboarding parks to anyone 14 or older — a concession squeezed out by a trial lawyers group, Morrow says. "Many cities weren't able to build parks because of the high cost of liability insurance or the risk of going without it," he says. "This has spurred

many communities to build."

For the small cadre that designs skateboard parks, times are, as the skateboarders say, fat.

"We're working with 23 cities a 35 parks," says Steve Rose, a landscape architect who designed parks in Huntington Beach and did a feasibility study for parks in Ventura.

Meanwhile in Huntington Beach, the future has been around for years. In the shadow of the Spanish Gothic tower of Huntington Beach High School, about three dozen skateboarders

**Skateboarding
illegal? One
skater was
jailed overnight
and fined \$400**

skim across a plaza. They jump onto two concrete benches, fly over a fenced pyramid, mount a curved, laneau and glide down steel railings.

Skateboarders about the park's size — it's 500 square feet — but it was planned small to keep them from building up too much bone-breaking speed.

Skateboarders insist that the sport isn't especially dangerous. A sprained ankle, maybe, or a smashed wrist or a jammed finger, but hey, it's a big deal, says Sean Brunell, Jesse's twin brother. "I broke my foot once trying a heel flip, but it's not as dangerous as people think," he says. "If you dive off a building and die, it's your own fault."

Statistics confirm the skaters' swaggering assertions. Despite skateboarding deaths in traffic, the sport is less dangerous than bicycling, according to the National Safety Council in-line skating bans people in more severely, according to a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"We probably see more injuries from middle-aged basketball and softball leagues," says Dr. Ray Nickel, a Ventura orthopedic surgeon.

Although many skateboarders cultivate a bad-boy image, this after-school crowd in Huntington Beach seems no more hostile than a tennis team in baggy pants. A

few lean against the fence chatting, but most are silent, intent, focused on the next jump.

No authority figure oversees the almost all-male pack. Unspoken rules prevail: Don't get in the way. Wait your turn. If someone's faster than you, back off.

Although the hands-off approach works in Huntington Beach, other California cities prefer adult supervision and strictly enforced safety regulations. "We look at it the same way we'd look at a swimming pool," says Julie Pelletier, recreation superintendent in Temecula, which last year opened a one-acre park, the state's largest. "We wouldn't run it without lifeguards."

In Huntington Beach, Rich Dotson, a 26-year-old longshore worker from San Pedro, needs no lifeguards. A competitive skater who used to run his own park, he says he has driven as much as five hours a day for prime skateboarding terrain, from a schoolyard in San Diego to the courthouse steps in Santa Monica.

"This fear of skateboarders is bizarre," he says. "Take a look around. This isn't a gang thing, it's not even a team thing; it's solitude in motion. It's just nice to be around other people doing the same thing you are."

Although the sport's critics point to frightened strollers and damaged beaches, the skaters offer their own tales of woe.

Dotson says he was cited by police in San Pedro for illegal skateboarding, taken to jail for a night and fined \$400. "I spent the night with wife-beaters and people charged with assault with a deadly weapon," he says. "It was almost comical, but it's not that funny when it's happening to you."

Huntington Beach police give mixed reviews to the city's skateboard parks, which, on a weekend day, draw as many as 200 skaters. "They give the kids a place to go, but that hasn't prevented them from going where we don't want them to go," says Lt. Dan Johnson. Stairs and railings on the high school campus next to the main park still get trashed, Johnson says.

And when skateboarders are cited for staying past the park's 10 p.m. closing time, cars in the Civic Center parking lot across the street wind up with punctured tires and key-scratched paint. Still, Johnson and the skaters say it's better to have a park with such problems than not have one at all.

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Proud of being linked to Jews

Anyone who has met Alfonso Lockward, the ambassador of the Dominican Republic, knows he is effusively in love with Israel and the Jewish people. At the concert and reception he hosted at Tel Aviv's Enav Cultural Center to mark the 154th anniversary of his country's independence, he said that two-thirds of Columbus's crew were

MKS Gideon Ezra, Zeev Boim, Avraham Herschson, Yuri Stern Avner Shaki, and Pini Badash, who as usual came sockless and shod in sandals. Other well-known personalities included Moshe Leon, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office and his predecessor, Avigdor Lieberman, as well as David Brodet, a former Finance Ministry director-general, plus



Café Atara: Now there are three. (Shalom Kilebick)

Marranos, and "that marked our history and our character."

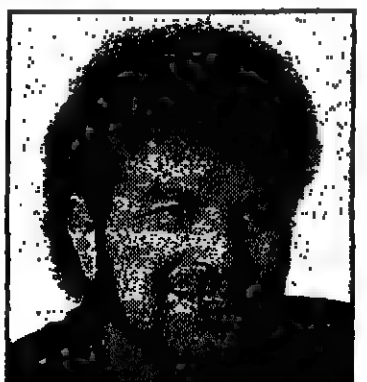
Being of Jewish descent was a matter of pride in the Dominican Republic, he declared, adding that although he couldn't find any Jews in his own genealogy, he married someone of Jewish origin. Lockward recalled that when the Dominicans were fighting for their independence from Haiti, it was Abraham Cohen, a Jewish merchant and representative of the Rothschilds, who helped finance their struggle. Opportunities to repay that debt came at the Evian conference of July 1938, where the Dominican Republic was the only country that offered to take in 100,000 Jews. A second opportunity came a decade later when the country voted "yes" on partition. What very few people know, disclosed Lockward, is that when Israel declared independence and some countries decided to impose an arms embargo, the Dominican Republic was ready to sell arms to the Jewish State.

SIXTY YEARS after his parents Heinz and Ruth Greenspan opened the first Café Atara on Jerusalem's famed Ben-Yehuda Street and 50 years after the original Atara burst into flames as a result of a bomb explosion, Uri Greenspan, the café's current owner, has ventured into suburbia — with instant success. Greenspan made international headlines in 1996 when he sold

bankers and foundation administrators, such as Avraham Asheri and Aharon Dovrat. Israel 2000 is a project which involves the business community with a host of organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life of economically and socially deprived sectors of society. Neeman emphasized the importance of mutual responsibility, underscoring that the beauty of Israel 2000 is that the more privileged sectors of society give not only of their money but of their skills and of themselves.

TOUGH businessman though he is, shipping, real-estate and banking magnate Yuli Ofer just can't say no to a good cause. Ofer, who was also among the guests at the Blumenthal home, was one of several tycoons who last week enabled Yaffa Dori, wife of Shas mover and shaker Aryeh Dori, to raise about NIS 1 million for the needy. Others who gave generously at the gala benefit at the Tel Aviv Hilton included Lav Leviev, Shalom Barashi and David Appel. Other well-known personalities present were Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, and singer Dudu Fisher, who sang special requests which were auctioned in aid of the numerous charities Dori's fund supports.

NEW YORK-based filmmaker Yale Rowe, whose film *Jerusalem City of God* starring Liv Ullmann



Dudu Fisher (Jerusalem)



MK Naomi Blumenthal (Ariel Jeczolinski)

Unsure of the next step

Dear Ruthie, My problem, in a nutshell, is as follows: I am 73 years old, was widowed exactly one year ago (losing my best friend in life), and am beset by a myriad of crippling maladies. I have an (expensive, indifferent) lady who comes in three times a day to take care of me, etc.

I'm a bit of a lone wolf by nature, not an easy person to deal with, a perfectionist. I am busy round the clock, devoting half my time to my scientific research, the other half to finding help for people or institutions in financial distress. My own financial situation is precarious.

I am considering giving up my much-needed individual freedom for the comparative safety, comfort and care (and as yet unknown restrictions) of a retirement home. Such a decision, once made, would be irreversible, as I couldn't afford a trial period. So my decision really would be something of a (pardon the expression) "final solution."

On the other hand, being alone day and night in this barn of a house and having to wage a daily battle to keep afloat is no picnic, either.

As I guess this is something of a problem of general interest, I suppose you might be tempted to come up with some advice.

Faced with an Age-Old Problem

Haifa

Dear Facing an Age-Old Problem, Though the problem, indeed, is of general interest, it varies from case to case, depending on the emotional makeup and financial situation of those presented with it. In your case, finances may be "precarious," but true desire appears to be on the side of "much-needed individual freedom" — the independence to pursue the many activities which continue to keep you involved in the world.

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

Having lost your (soul) mate, it is undoubtedly this involvement in the world which keeps you vibrant, in spite of your "myriad crippling maladies." It is thus no wonder that you fear trading your "lone wolf" status for one of a member of a herd — even if the protection and comfort the herd provides is tempting.

But because the paid assistance you are receiving at present is unsatisfying emotionally and unsatisfactory medically, you find yourself leaning intellectually toward making a choice you otherwise might not make. This kind of tunnel vision where options are concerned may be more related to the fact that you have not completed your mourning process than to the reality of your situation.

Thus before making any final decision, you might consider seeking guidance to deal with your widowhood. A year is not enough time to come to grips with losing a best friend. In fact, it may be the anniversary of your husband's death which is both exacerbating your medical problems and causing you to feel so conflicted about the course of action you should take. Working through your grief may help you pinpoint the solution best suited to you, both financially and emotionally.

One such solution, for example, is to move to a small apartment and hire a less indifferent companion to tend to your needs for a greater number of hours. Another is to look for a golden-age home that resembles a regular apartment building but which provides round-the-clock emergency care for those in need of it. This would safeguard your privacy and freedom without forfeiting your safety and well-being.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: ruthie@post.co.il ("Dear Ruthie" will also appear in "In Jerusalem" and in "City Lights," beginning March 20.)

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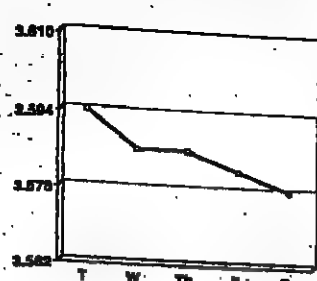
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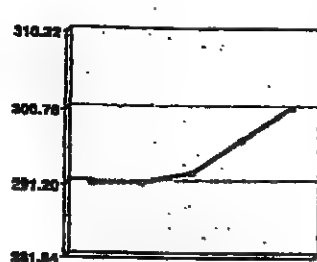
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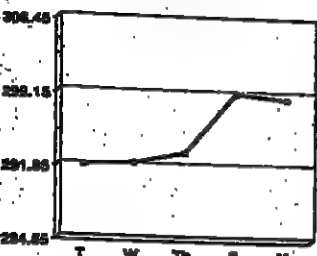


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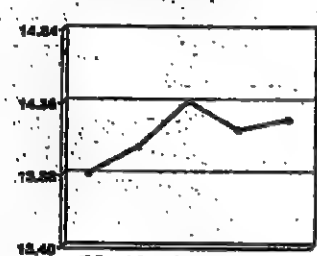
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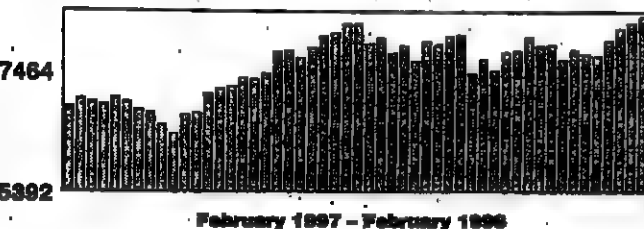
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New trade attaché named for Russia

Natasha Bechman of the Israel Export Institute has been appointed trade attaché in Russia, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced yesterday. Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky also plans to appoint a trade attaché in the former Soviet Union, given Israel's ability to meet market needs there and the availability of personnel with knowledge of the region's languages. In the past four years, trade with Russia has jumped 600%. In 1997, exports to Russia were \$251.3 million and imports were \$134m. *Nina Gilbert*

\$4.2 million in investments

Ten projects valued at some \$4.2 million were approved for capital investment aid by the Industry and Trade Ministry's Investments Center on Sunday. In Shilomi, a \$1 million medical products plant, PMP, is to be established. Some \$500,000 is to be invested in the establishment in Yotvata of a high-tech company, Security 7, which is to produce software for information protection. *Nina Gilbert*

Neeman: '98 CPI - 6% max; no need for target update

By DAVID HARRIS

Inflation for 1998 will be six percent or lower, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday. "Inflation... this year, unless something unexpected happens such as a war, will be 6% or less," the minister told the Jerusalem meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Immediately after his speech, Neeman met Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel to discuss a timetable for the implementation of a fully convertible shekel.

Following the conference meeting, Neeman told *The Jerusalem Post* that he does not believe there is a need to set a new inflation target for this year. In August, the cabinet approved a 1998 target of 7%-10%, the same as that for last year. However, 1997 inflation totaled 7%, the lowest level in 28 years. As a result, it is being suggested inside the Bank of Israel that the cabinet should continue to reduce its inflation goals, to reach the government-approved multiyear target of 4% inflation by 2001. In August, central bank Governor Jacob Frenkel suggested a 1998 target of 6%-9%.

Rejecting the need to set new targets, Neeman said "I'm speaking about the reality." During his speech to the conference, Neeman described inflation as "the worst tax imaginable. Inflation is a disease." In a wide-ranging review of the economy, the finance minister said the government's main economic aim is to reduce unemployment. He outlined three major causes of joblessness: the general state of the world economy, the reduction in government expenditure and "the very necessary monetary

achievements." Neeman suggested that the main solution to the unemployment problem is the continuation of the privatization process. "Governments are the worst managers of business," he said. While economic growth has slowed considerably—with latest internal Treasury estimates pointing to a maximum 2% this year—Neeman said that within two to three years growth in the gross domestic product will be up to 4%-5%. The subsequent meeting between Neeman and Frenkel did not set a specific date for the intro-

duction of a fully convertible shekel, but the two sides are in agreement that they should, if possible, aim for Israel's Independence Day, according to a senior Jerusalem source. The two agreed that their respective organizations will now work on a joint program to implement the remaining stages, including changes in currency supervision and deciding which restrictions will remain in place after full convertibility. It is already clear that institutional investors will not be permitted to invest all their resources overseas, according to the source.



Gov't: Train links are top priority

By DAVID HARRIS

A new railroad from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv via Ben-Gurion International Airport is one of the government's highest priorities, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday. Speaking in Jerusalem, Neeman said the aim is to have an eventual journey time of 25 minutes for the 55-60 km. route between the country's two major cities. The construction of this route is one of the government's two major targets, the other being the development of the Tel Aviv-Beersheba line.

Neeman did not outline a timetable for completing work on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv line, but Israel Railways spokesman Benny Naor confirmed that there are several plans for improved rail links between the cities, including a \$300 million new line passing by Ben-Gurion. Furthermore, a line linking Ben-Gurion to Tel Aviv is part of both the Ben-Gurion 2000 and Railways 2000 programs, Naor added. "Within the next few weeks, we also will be bringing the railways bill to the cabinet for approval," Neeman said. This bill paves the way for the

establishment of a state-owned railways company, which would be a separate entity from the existing Ports and Railways Authority. The company would be responsible for the issuing of BOT (build, operate and transfer) tenders, which would ensure the construction and management of these and other railroads would be entirely in the private sector. Neeman said that the use of trains similar to the shinkansen (bullet trains) used in Japan would dramatically reduce journey times between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Beersheba, and Tel Aviv and Haifa.

The minister also looked ahead, predicting "other ideas, but these are rather far-fetched—for example a fast train to Damascus with a journey time of less than two hours." Meanwhile, in the coming days Israel Railways and Germany-based ADtranz will begin experimenting on improving journey times on the existing Tel Aviv-Jerusalem line. ADtranz has brought a two-car tilting train into the country to see if it is possible to reduce journey-time from a little over two hours to under 60 minutes. Tilting trains are capable of taking bends at far higher speeds than Israel's present rolling stock.

Internal revenues lag NIS 2b. in Feb.

By Jerusalem Post staff

The Income Tax Commission registered an NIS 2 billion shortfall in revenues in February, according to a statement from the Treasury. This figure was the major factor in the month's domestic state deficit of NIS 1.714b. (excluding granted net credit), the Treasury explained, saying the shortfall was the result of the industrial action taken by commission staff.

In February the commission's final revenues totaled NIS 3.6b, down 35 percent on the equivalent month last year. The Treasury said it remains confident the figures will be corrected during March. The commission received NIS 4.2b, down 31% before tax returns were taken into account. In returns there was a 12% real terms increase to NIS 575 million.

Since January, income tax receipts reached NIS 10.2b, down 15% on the first two months of 1997. After returns, the commission balance stood at NIS 9.5b, down 14%. During this period returns were 26% lower than they were in January-February last year. During the first two months, the overall domestic deficit was NIS 1.378b, however the Treasury added that the accurate performance on the state budget only will become clear in early April. The total budget deficit for February came in at NIS 2.052b, and since the start of the year at NIS 2.359b. (both excluding granted net credit). The principle funding of the government expenditure last month came from NIS 148m. net raised at home, NIS 418m. from the sale of Bank Hapoalim shares and a decline in bank surpluses of NIS 1.538b. These were partially offset by expenditure abroad being NIS 162m. net greater than income.

Since the start of the year, the government has raised NIS 485m. net abroad, NIS 148m. net at home, NIS 451m. from privatization and an NIS 850m. decline in bank surpluses.

Recanati trying to thwart Delek deal

By DAN GERSTENFELD and GLOWE

The Recanati family which is the controlling shareholder in Discount Investments, is exerting heavy pressure to thwart a prospective sale of Bank Hapoalim holdings in Delek the Israel Fuel Corporation to contractor Yizhak Tshuva. Hapoalim and Tshuva had been expected to reach agreement by the end of the week for the sale of a 25 percent stake in Delek. Such a deal would give Tshuva a 50% stake in Israel's first petroleum company. Tshuva purchased a 25% stake in Delek last week, though his company Tashluz Assets, for NIS 385 million. He acquired shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and also bought a 7% stake from entrepreneur Eliezer Fishman. Tshuva's move caught Discount Investments—Delek's largest shareholder—by surprise, and the company has offered to buy Hapoalim's stake in Delek for NIS 189.5 per share. Tshuva has offered only NIS 160 per share.

In addition, IDB, Discount's parent company, made Tshuva a generous offer through a third party for the purchase of his Delek shares. IDB's pressures are considered a key factor behind a delay in closing the deal. Meanwhile, Tshuva yesterday denied reports that David Federman, former chairman of food manufacturer Elite Industries, is his partner in the Delek talks.

Women managers rise to 20%

By NINA GILBERT

Women hold 20 percent of managerial jobs in industry, compared with 16% three years ago, but 45% of companies have all-male managements, according to a survey

issued by the Manufacturers Association yesterday.

Women still receive far fewer benefits than their male counterparts. Only 36% of women managers receive car benefits, compared with 70% of men. In the survey, conducted by Midgam, questionnaires were sent to 376 companies. The association women's forum chairman Ronit Silon, speaking to reporters in Tel Aviv, linked the findings to norms in business that women can be paid less. She also maintained that women are less aggressive in securing wage rises. There is also a lack of resolve by male management to advance women and this is often reflected in appraisal sheets, Silon noted. Silon said that the problems faced by women in Israel are similar to those faced in other Western countries, and that the percentage

of women managers in industry in Israel is getting closer to the 25% figure for the United States.

The number of young women managers is growing, she noted. The largest percentage of women managers, 36%, are between the ages of 35 and 44, and 26% are in the under 34 age group. "As women become more educated it is only a matter of time before their numbers grow and can be a force to change attitudes and discrimination in the workplace," she said. Silon said there are still great salary gaps, with 73% of women managers earning only up to NIS10,000 gross, 20% making between NIS10,000 and NIS15,000, and 7% earning NIS15,000 to NIS20,000. The survey asked both men and women what they thought was preventing the advancement of

women in management. The answers were similar among both men and women, with an average of 49% saying that women don't have enough time, 12% saying they lacked the knowledge needed for the job, and 6% citing prejudice against women. The survey also found that only 8% of women offered managerial positions had rejected such proposals.

A problem for women in high-tech industry, Silon said, is that managers must frequently travel abroad. The percentage of women managers with top-level management jobs has risen to 16% from 10% in 1994, when a similar survey was conducted. There has been a drop in traditional management positions for women, manpower and finance, and a rise in other fields, such as in marketing, where 12% of women managers are employed.

Texas Utilities to pay \$10.2b. for Energy Group

LONDON (Bloomberg)—Texas Utilities Co. agreed yesterday to acquire Energy Group Plc for 6.17 billion pounds (\$10.2b.) in cash and assumed debt in an attempt to knock PacificCorp out of a struggle for control of the British power company.

Texas Utilities is offering 810 pence per share for Energy Group, 45p more than the rival US utility's offer, which was approved by U.K. and U.S. regulators and backed by Energy Group's board. Energy Group shares rose as much as 21 pence to 79p.

"It's staggering," said David Campbell, an analyst at Greig Middleton & Co., who said the Dallas-based company is paying too much. "I don't know how they justify it. They don't appear to have the same synergies as PacificCorp."

Whoever acquires Energy Group will become the 11th US company to buy a UK utility since 1995. American companies are attracted by the prospect of higher returns in a less regulated market and the opportunity to gain a foothold in Europe as its power market deregulates.

"It's a unique enterprise and in that regard needs to be valued for what it is," said Erle Nye, Texas Utilities chairman and chief executive, who described Energy Group as a "premium company."

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Necessary application forms and documents - written in Hebrew - including the Procedure for Sale of the State Holdings (hereinafter: the "Sale Procedure") may be purchased, Sunday to Friday between 9.00 and 17.00, as of February 22, 1998, from Mr. Ofer Ternechi or Ms. Yael Teimil, Government Companies Authority, 1 Kaplan St., 7th floor, Room 722, Jerusalem (hereinafter: the "GCA Office"); Tel. 02-5317449/292; Fax: 02-5611680, for the sum of NIS 500 (which shall not be refunded), payable by Bank cheque to the Ministry of Finance - the Accountant General.

The date for submitting applications, according to the conditions set forth in the Sale Procedure, is March 19, 1998 until 17.00 at the GCA Office. The GCA may at any time, by way of a published announcement, extend or advance the date for submission of applications, as well as change other dates and conditions in the Sale Procedure, at its sole and absolute discretion.

The Sale Procedure contains information regarding the holdings of the other members of the Company.

A Government Corporation will not be permitted to participate in the sale process on its own or as a part of an applicant group (as such terms are defined in the Sale Procedure), except as set forth in the Sale Procedure.

The Government Representatives shall be entitled, at their sole and absolute discretion, to select from among the applicants and from other parties whom they may address, candidates who shall be invited to continue to participate in the sale process, after considering which candidates best fulfill the criterion specified in the Sale Procedure, including among others, the knowledge, capability and experience required to manage and control a business in the field and with the scope of activities of the Company, the evidence of financial capability for the purchase and possession of the State Holdings and operation of the Company, absence of potential conflicts of interest and fulfillment of additional conditions which are specified in the Sale Procedure.

The sale of the State Shares is exempt from the obligation to hold a tender, under the "Obligation of Tender Regulations - 1993".

In order to remove any doubt, it is hereby clarified that this announcement does not constitute an invitation to the general public to purchase securities of the Company, nor does it constitute an offer or undertaking on the part of the Government to sell the State Holdings. The purchaser of the State Holdings shall be determined in accordance with the Sale Procedure, including negotiations which the Government Representatives may, at their sole and absolute discretion, conduct, if it will be decided to proceed with the said sale of the State Holdings.

The purchase of the State Holdings is subject to the prior approval of the Antitrust Authority.

Building Blocks

By Nina Gilbert

JERUSALEM AREA

■ After two years on the market, the first floor of the oldest house in Katamon, on Rehov Hahish, was sold recently for some \$600,000 by RE/MAX. The 160-sq.m. property is in reasonable condition and sits on 400 sq.m. of land. The property, built at the beginning of the century, was bought by a Jerusalem lawyer. The owners had originally asked for \$840,000.

■ In the second phase of David's Village in Mamilla, a four-room apartment was sold for \$885,000. The 180-sq.m. apartment, which has a garden, was bought by new immigrants. The project, where 20 apartments are still for sale, is now ready for occupancy. The luxury apartments, marketed by Ambassador, have marble floors and German-made kitchens. Thirty apartments have been sold in the project for some \$25 million.

■ In French Hill, a four-room, ground-floor apartment on Rehov Bar-Kochva was sold for \$220,000 by Anglo-Saxon via Shiran. The apartment, which was partially renovated, sold after only one week on the market. On Rehov Koreh Hadorot in Talpiot, a three-room, 80-sq.m. apartment on the third floor sold for \$200,000 via Shiran after a month on the market.

■ A three-room, 80-sq.m. apartment on Rehov Chel Ha'avir in central Pisgat Ze'ev sold for \$140,000. The apartment, on the ground floor, was sold by Anglo-Saxon. The agency also sold a four-room, ground-floor apartment in the same area, on Rehov Ha'arba'a, for \$160,000.

TEL AVIV AND CENTER

■ A two-and-a-half room, 70-sq.m. apartment on Louis Marshall Street on the ground floor with a garden was sold for \$206,000 by RE/MAX. On Rehov Schlesinger, a two-and-a-half room, 70-sq.m. apartment on the second floor of a modern building was sold for \$235,000 by Century 21. The asking price for the apartment, which has a view to green areas, was \$250,000.

■ A two-room, 57-sq.m. apartment is a renovated building on Rehov Yellin, a quiet street, was sold for \$192,000 by Century 21. The asking price for the second-floor apartment, in need of extensive renovations, was \$210,000. In south Tel Aviv, a three-room apartment on Rehov Ma'aplei Egoz was sold at ask-

ing price for \$148,000. The 80-sq.m. apartment is in excellent condition.

■ In Givat Savyon, a five-room, 120-sq.m. apartment on the seventh floor in very good condition was sold for \$290,000 by Anglo-Saxon. In Rosh Ha'ayin, a six-room, 170-sq.m. villa on Rehov Eilon, in the Neveh Afek area, was sold for \$405,000 by RE/MAX. The property has a 600-sq.m. garden.

■ In Kfar Sava, a duplex penthouse built on three levels, for a total of 200 sq.m., was sold for \$400,000 by RE/MAX. The apartment, on Rehov Hamelacha, has air-conditioning, electronic blinds, two parking spots and some 200 sq.m. of porches. In Kfar Sava, a four-room apartment on Rehov Moshe Dayan for \$191,000 was sold by Anglo-Saxon. The 115-sq.m. apartment, on the fourth floor with an elevator, is in a four-year-old building.

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

■ The Industry and Trade Ministry and the Jerusalem Development Authority recently signed an independent development agreement for the industrial areas of Har Hotzvim, Givat Shaul and Pisgat Ze'ev. Income from plots sold in the areas will go toward infrastructure development in the zones. Ten other industrial areas, including Mishor Adumim and Omer, have signed similar agreements. Meanwhile, the Atarot industrial area has received an extension of its National Priority Area A status for another five years and other Jerusalem-area industrial zones for another five years for high-tech industries.

■ Diyouz Laoleh Ltd. has won a NIS 30 million contract for the construction of schools and public institutions for the Union of Local Authorities in 1998. It also has contracts worth NIS 70m. for projects in Poland this year. The company recently completed the construction of a primary school in Ramat Aviv Gimmel and is building a school in Ma'alot.

■ Holmes Place, a British health-club chain, has leased 2,500 sq.m. in David Azrieli's Shalom project in Tel Aviv. The club, due to open in November 1998, will have sophisticated equipment, an aerobics hall, swimming pool and other services. The Shalom branch, to be constructed at the cost of several millions of dollars, is to be the first of 12 clubs the chain plans to open in Israel over the next five years.

Japan's mixed signals

The markets aren't sure just what to make of Tokyo's often-contradictory plans in response to Euro-American pressure to stimulate its sagging economy

By SANDRA SUGAWARA

TOKYO — Japan has given a clear response to US demands that it stimulate its domestic economy: yes, no, maybe so.

Take Friday, for example. First came the news reports Friday morning that the Japanese government was considering tax cuts. Then, later in the day, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto backtracked slightly, ambiguously urging "caution" on the tax cut issue.

Japan's chief government spokesman, Kanezo Muraoka, also spoke up, saying Japan would pursue both economic stimulus and fiscal reform.

Most economists say that these goals are contradictory. The government will have to spend money to stimulate Japan's economy quickly but is also planning to cut spending to meet fiscal reform goals.

Friday's mixed signals are just the latest in a litany of vague and often contradictory statements about economic programs made by Japanese officials since last weekend's Group of Seven finance ministers meeting in London, where Japan was pressured to boost its economy.

For example, some officials are vigorously trying to jawbone stock prices higher, setting a target of 18,000 on the Nikkei 225 stock index by March 31. The date is important because that's the end of Japanese banks' fiscal years, and they may have to report dramatically lower values on their stock market holdings if prices don't rise. Only six months ago, though, Finance Ministry officials were declaring that efforts to artificially boost stock prices were a thing of the past, that such efforts had no place in a deregulated financial market.

But faced with this economic crisis, officials are reverting to the old-time medicine of attempting to control supposedly free markets.

Friday Mitsuo Horiuchi, head of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, said he thinks the government-run postal savings and insurance funds should be used to boost stock prices.

On another front, officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party have said a major goal of Japan's recent bank bailout plan is simply to get capital into weak banks before March 31 so they will appear stronger in their public filings. When the plan was unveiled



Currency trading in Tokyo yesterday. Washington wants to see much more determined action from Hashimoto's government in the face of Asia's financial crisis. (AP)

last month, officials stressed the tough new requirements banks would be forced to meet.

But details revealed this week show that few tough restructuring requirements will be placed on the banks, and indicate that none of the major 18 banks playing for \$16 billion will be turned down.

In fact, as word leaked out that some of the banks, hit by the current bribery scandal, were reluctant to apply for the money, LDP officials went to banks and insisted that they all participate. The fear: if only the struggling banks applied, they might get negative publicity. LDP officials were underlined by the fact that only last year, the Finance Ministry had declared the convoy system — which required strong banks to protect the weak banks — dead.

Despite the mixed signals, the stock market rose Friday on news reports of a possible new tax cut, despite Hashimoto's reluctance

to publicly embrace the idea. The Nikkei index rose 329.97 points or 2 percent, closing at 16,831.67. But because this optimism is based on so little, some discouraging rumors can knock the market down as quickly, said one analyst.

The *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, Japan's leading business newspaper, criticized the government's obsession with manipulating the stock index level. "Various sources warn that if the stock index is allowed to drop below the target (of 18,000), some of Japan's major banks may have to close down overseas operations, and companies may go bankrupt."

Some even say the prime minister will be forced to resign," wrote editorial writer Masataka Maeda.

"But increasingly, market players are warning the government that what they are doing is not child's play. And it's hard to believe that the stock price at one

moment — 3 p.m. on March 31 — will determine if Japan's economy goes to heaven or hell," Maeda wrote. He said government officials should be focusing instead on policies to generate sustained economic growth, and he called the G-7 statement on Japan "a warning that Japan was playing a dangerous game."

Meanwhile, bad economic data continues to roll in. Job offers are falling, while the number of job seekers is growing. Housing starts plummeted in January and are expected to continue to fall. Several major companies slashed their earnings forecasts. Ratings agencies continue to lower the ratings of Japanese companies. The number of bankruptcies has been increasing. Even the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun's* golf club membership price index continues to plummet, falling to its lowest level since 1984.

There was one bit of good eco-

nomics news Friday for Japan. Auto exports continued to rise for the 20th month in a row.

Japan's weak domestic economy lessens the potential for export growth for the rest of Asia, said Tim Condon, a Hong Kong-based regional economist with Morgan Stanley. "Domestic demand in South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia has been crushed" by the policies of the International Monetary Fund, which include high interest rates and cutbacks in spending.

Exports are one potential source of growth for these countries.

But so far, export growth in much of Asia appears to be slowing, not rising, said Condon. That's because Asian nations sell 40-60% of their exports to other Asian countries. Japan is a major market for them, but imports into Japan have been falling.

(Washington Post)

Diagnosing Eli Hurvitz's headaches

Competition from abroad, along with the much-heralded Copaxone's baptism by market fire, have weighed on Teva's performance

It was a good year," Eli Hurvitz, president and CEO of Israel's drug-making flagship, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, said last week while presenting the Jerusalem-based company's annual results.

Hurvitz's assertion, which in most other situations would have been obvious, carried more meaning this time, considering that fourth-quarter sales were significantly lower than during 1997's previous quarters. In all, Teva sales grew 17 percent last year and profits by 39%, "results which I would wish for everyone," said Hurvitz.

Two weeks earlier, when the company issued a surprise warning that its fourth-quarter earnings would be nearly half the market's expectations, Teva's Nasdaq-traded shares plunged 23% to \$37.5, on volume of more than 7.5 million shares. By the time it officially presented its annual results, Teva's shares recovered 1.25% of their value.

A veteran and prominent fixture in Israel's entire industrial landscape, some three quarters of Teva's sales are abroad, mostly in the US.

The company, which develops, manufactures and markets branded and generic human pharmaceutical chemicals, medical disposable and veterinary products, reported for the quarter ending December 31 total sales of \$291.9 million, up just 5.1% compared with the same quarter in 1996.

Pretax profit was \$8 million, after a one-time non-recurring charge of \$21m. stemming from costs related to the acquisition of rights on products in various R&D stages, following Teva's December 1997 agreement with Canada's Biocell. Net profit for the fourth quarter was \$21.2m., or \$0.34 per ADR. Previous estimates had been for earnings of \$0.65 per ADR. Before the one-time charges in both years, net income in 1997 totaled \$122.5 million, an increase of 38.7% over 1996.

ANALYSTS were initially caught off guard by the lower-than-expected fourth-quarter results, but they now say the company is still a good buy, based on the belief that it will present strong growth in the second half of 1998, 1999 and beyond.

They have, however, lowered their earnings estimates for the year.

"We still predict the company's net earnings can grow by 25% this year, but that will come mostly in the second half of the year," said Keith Phillips of Societe Generale in London.

"The first half of the year will be weak and erratic, and it appears the year will be of two halves, with the second one expected to sharply outperform the first six months of the year. Weakness in the coming months should be seen as a buying opportunity," Phillips said.

Societe Generale has lowered its earnings estimate for this year to \$2.47 per ADR from the previous forecast of \$2.80. For 1999, analysts forecast the earnings to be as high as \$3.20 per ADR.

"Since the announcement of the annual results, I have lowered my earnings estimates for this year to \$2.30 from \$2.40 per ADR. And for 1999 to \$3.15 from \$3.25 per ADR," said leading Israeli analyst Daniel Carasso. "But I have held my 'buy' recommendation, as I had done for a long time already," he added.

COMPANY FOCUS

By SHOSHANNA SOLOMON



Sitting pretty? Eli Hurvitz, president and CEO of Teva Pharmaceutical Industries: Teva sales grew 17% last year and profits by 39%, "results which I would wish for everyone." (Rahamim Israeli)

Phillips said the stability of the share at the \$40 level reflects a wait-and-see approach to the stock, and Martin Geifman, equity analyst at Zannex Securities, said he expected the stock price to remain stable at its current level with prices possibly rising in the second half of the year.

For its part, Teva said that a number of factors affected the 1997 financial results and in particular those of the fourth quarter. Reduced sales in Israel during the fourth quarter, significant expenditures in global marketing and R&D for Copaxone, Teva's much-heralded multiple sclerosis drug; and a higher effective tax rate in the fourth quarter — 28% as compared to an average rate of approximately 23% reported in previous quarters.

Sales in Israel in 1997 remained on their 1996 level, but in the fourth quarter of 1997 they fell by 17% compared with the same quarter the previous year.

The decline in local sales is attributed to a number of factors, including the changed relationship with New Jersey-based Merck, and changes in Kupat Holim Clalit's requirements.

Merck, the world's third-largest drug manufacturer, decided in July to import and market its own products in Israel, as part of a global strategy. The decision effectively terminated the agreement it had with Teva, by which the Israeli party produced and marketed the Americans' drugs. This new situ-

ation already affected Teva's sales and profit in the third quarter, but especially in the fourth, the company said.

"Most of the blow was felt in the fourth quarter, and a \$4.5m. blow in one quarter is a lot," Hurvitz said.

"This shortfall in sales and profits will continue, but we hope to balance it with the introduction of new products, the development of alternative products to those of Merck, and by introducing major efficiency measures," Hurvitz said.

The lower sales in Israel were also caused by Kupat Holim Clalit and private pharmacies reducing their purchases in anticipation of price reductions in the Israeli market, stemming from various legislative proposals still pending at the Knesset.

Regardless of competition, the most intriguing aspect of Teva's current travails is the unfolding saga surrounding its innovative multiple sclerosis drug, Copaxone, which was first marketed in the second quarter.

According to data by Teva Marion Partners — a Kansas City-based partnership between Teva and Hoechst Marion Roussel Inc., which markets Copaxone in the US — Copaxone's market penetration was in line with internal projections. Still, the drug did not contribute to the '97 bottom line as some analysts hoped it would.

"As it stands now, the company says it has 6,000 patients being treated with Copaxone in the US, which amounts to 12% of all the patients being treated for multiple sclerosis (MS) in the US," said Geifman. "Twelve thousand new patients in the US got treated with MS drugs in 1997, of which Copaxone got 6,000, which is pretty impressive, considering that Teva is the new kid on the block. But analysts had higher expectations — between 10,000 and 12,000 — which I think was exaggerated."

The company also significantly increased the level of expenditure for Copaxone's R&D and for the strengthening of its marketing infrastructure and its patient support system in 1997.

Hurvitz said Teva had warned analysts that Copaxone sales would not affect profits in 1997. "We always said that we would not see profits from Copaxone in 1997," he said, adding that he expected to pass the break-even point with the drug some time in the middle of this year.

"Initial costs for Copaxone are very high, but once you pass the break-even point, its effect on profits is very high," Hurvitz said. "We expect to see more significant profitability for the drug in the third and fourth quarters of this year."

On another front, Hurvitz welcomed Israel's controversial amendment to its patents law which allows Israeli drug companies to begin developing and exporting generic versions of patented drugs before their patents expire. The amendment to the law passed its second and third readings in the Knesset on February 17.

The pre-amended law caused \$20 m. worth of R&D abandoned annually to the US, Teva says. The amendment will allow Teva to do more R&D in Israel, "and in a better and more efficient way," said Hurvitz.

Concerning the merger mania currently sweeping the global pharmaceutical industry, Hurvitz said that Teva "was always on the lookout for merger and acquisition opportunities around the world, and this year alone we checked out 27 prospective production lines or plants."

THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

3.3 The Education Ministry, in conjunction with the Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, is hosting a conference at Van Leer on Fifty Years of Israeli Science. Speakers will include leading scientists from the Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, and the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, who will present papers on subjects related to chemistry, microbiology and biotechnology in industrial science.

3.3 To mark Thirty years of Jewish Resettlement in the Etzion Bloc and in honor of the publication of *Between Jerusalem and Hebron: Jewish settlement in the Pre-State Period*, Bar-Ilan University, in conjunction with Yad Yitzhak Ben-Zvi and the Jewish National Fund, is hosting a study day in BIU's Senate Hall in the administration building. The author of the book will be among the speakers.

3.3 This is the second day in a three-day conference at Tel Aviv University on National Identity in Young States. The conference explores subjects such as multinationalism, national minorities, national and religious identity, collective memory, emblems and myths.

4.3 The Haifa International Congress Center is the venue for Metal '98, a three-day international trade show which will include exhibits, lectures and symposia on anything and everything related to metal.

5.3 Dr. Roque Fernandez, Argentina's minister of economy, will deliver the Carlos Menem lecture at the Malka Brender Hall of Justice in TAU's Trubowicz Building. He will be introduced by Governor of the Bank of Israel Prof. Jacob Frankel. Fernandez will address Recent Economic Developments in Argentina

and Challenges for the Future.

6.3 The inaugural conference of the Israeli Association for Feminist Studies and Research on Gender will be held in the Beck Hall of Bar-Ilan University. The conference will be devoted to several issues relevant to feminist research.

6.3 City engineers, architects, members of municipal councils and neighborhood committees and representatives of the Israel Lands Administration will convene for a town meeting at the Tzippori Center in the Jerusalem Forest to discuss who wins and who loses in the Evacuation and Rebuilding of Old Neighborhoods.

8.3 An interreligious dialogue on Spirituality in Judaism, Christianity and Islam will be held at Kol HaNeshama, 1 Asher Street, Jerusalem. Speakers Sheikh Ziad Zamel Abu Muka of the Islamic College; Baka-al-Gharbiya; Prof. Sister Maureen Fritz of the Bat Kol Institute, Jerusalem; and Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman of Kol HaNeshama will explore common links, differences and what each faith can learn from the other.

23.3 Various perspectives on City and Neighborhood will be offered by government ministers, mayors and academic experts from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, Haifa University, the Technion and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev at a seminar being held at Binyanei Ha'uma, Jerusalem. Among the subjects to be discussed are neighborhood elections, city policies vs. state policy; the government and the community and the digital community.

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Ronaldo on Schalke's mind in UEFA Cup

By STEPHEN WADE

LONDON (AP) — The two finalists in last year's UEFA Cup meet again today, but with a big difference: Inter Milan have Ronaldo and Schalke will have to figure out how to stop him.

The Inter-Schalke rematch is one of four UEFA Cup first-leg quarterfinals as play resumes this week in Europe's three major cups after a break since December.

In the three other fixtures today, it's Lazio vs. Auxerre, Ajax vs. Spartak Moscow and Atletico Madrid vs. Aston Villa. But the centerpiece is Inter vs. Schalke.

"We still haven't gotten over that match," said Inter's Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano. "Now we have the right chance for revenge — eliminating them."

Zamorano is one of just a handful of holdovers who lost to Schalke on a penalty shootout after a 1-1 aggregate in the two final legs, and of course Ronaldo is a new addition.

"This year we have a big plus in Ronaldo," the Chilean added. "His speed will certainly create problems for the German defenders, who are big but maybe a little slow." Ronaldo leads Inter with 15 goals, but he hasn't always received much help up front. That could bode well for Schalke, whose tenacious defense has yielded only four goals in six UEFA Cup games.

Schalke's Dutch coach Houb Stevens is

expected to use Johan de Kock to mark Ronaldo, although he admitted it's not a one-man job.

"One player alone cannot mark this extraordinary player," Stevens said.

"Inter is not only Ronaldo, they have a roster that we can only dream of. If you play 10 times against Inter, you win maybe two or three. We've already won once. We have to have a second super day."

Schalke are injury free. Inter, second in Serie A to Juventus, will miss veteran defender Giuseppe Bergomi to suspension. Ze Elias is likely to replace Paulo Sousa at midfield. Sousa is ineligible, having played earlier for Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League.

Another Italian club, Lazio, are seeking their first UEFA Cup semifinal berth. Few clubs in Europe are playing better with 13 wins and three draws in the last 16. The defense is Italy's stingiest and scoring is balanced between Croatian Alen Boksic, Roberto Mancini and Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Auxerre, eliminated from the French Cup and struggling with a porous defense, will be without injured defender Franck Silvestre, although goalkeeper Lionel Charbonnier will return.

Unlike Lazio's balanced attack, the main threat is Stephane Guivarc'h, who leads French-league scoring with 20 goals and has 43 overall. Coach Guy Roux will look to

winger Bernard Diomede to supply Guivarc'h.

In the Ajax-Spartak game, it's the Russian champions in five of the last six seasons against the runaway leaders in the Netherlands.

The Russians have played virtually no competitive matches since December when the season ended. They are led by Russian player of the year Dimitri Alenichev and fellow Russian international Andrei Tikhonov.

Spartak are shooting for their best European performance since reaching the Cup Winners Cup semifinals in '92-93.

Ajax have scored 18 goals in six UEFA Cup games behind experienced players like Michael Laudrup and Richard Witschge.

To add more firepower, Ajax welcomed Benni McCarthy into their squad for today.

However, the 20-year-old South African striker, who was named player of the tournament for his seven goals in the African Cup of Nations, is likely to be on the bench after a long flight from Africa.

Atletico Madrid has nagging injury problems. Aston Villa's malaise goes deeper. Atletico coach Radomir Antic has lost Brazilian Juninho for the season with a broken leg and will have to do without Radek Bejbi and Jordi Lardin with suspensions for the match in Madrid.

Francisco Narvaez. "Kiko" is also doubtful with an injury, which would break up the

goal-scoring tandem of Kiko and Italian Christian Vieri.

Aston Villa have a new manager in John Gregory, named last week after Brian Little's surprise resignation. Gregory opened with a 2-1 win Saturday over Liverpool as Stan Collymore — a disappointing £7 million transfer from Liverpool — scored his first two goals since Christmas.

Villa are bogged down in 14th place in the Premiership and only eight points clear of relegation.

"If we win in Madrid I think I'll resign!" Gregory joked.

"After what has happened I suppose it could become a fairytale for me — but at the moment things have got to have a bit more of a sense of reality about them."

"Madrid have got world-class players and we are lucky that Juninho will not be playing but Stan Collymore is also quite a big name and they hold no fears for us." European play continues tomorrow and Thursday with the Champions Cup and Cup Winners Cup.

In tomorrow's Champions Cup, it's Bayer Leverkusen vs. Real Madrid, Monaco vs. Manchester United, Juventus vs. Dynamo Kiev and Bayern Munich vs. Borussia Dortmund.

In the Cup Winners Cup, it's AEK Athens vs. Lokomotiv Moscow, Slavia Prague vs. Stuttgart, Roda vs. Vicenza and Real Betis vs. Chelsea.

Bookie already paying off bets on Man Utd

MANCHESTER (AP) — With an 11-point lead and 10 matches to play, Manchester United look like a good bet to win the English Premier League.

So good, in fact, that a British bookmaker is already paying off bettors who backed United for the title.

Independent bookie Fred Done believes he has created betting history by becoming the first to pay out before the final outcome has been determined.

"You know the phrase 'they think it's all over'? Well it is now," said the 53-year-old proprietor of Britain's biggest independent bookmakers, which has 115 shops throughout north England and in

Wales.

"I don't think Fergie's going to like it, he never likes to count his chickens, but I think it's all done and dusted." With 59 points from 28 games, United are in firm command over the chasing pack of Blackburn, Arsenal, Liverpool, Chelsea and Derby.

Done estimates he is set to lose £50,000. Should United collapse and fail to win the title, he will lose another £40,000.

"I can confirm we are paying out on all single bets for Manchester United to win this season's Premier League title irrespective of the eventual winners," he said.

Scotland manager offered new contract

GLASGOW (AP) — Scotland manager Craig Brown will be given a new four-year contract to replace the one that ends after this summer's World Cup.

Brown, who has indicated he would like to stay, will be offered the new deal by the Scottish Football Association council, which met yesterday.

"I can confirm the four-year offer to Craig Brown of a new contract until 2002 is in the minutes," said SFA spokesman David Findlay. Brown was appointed Scotland manager on Nov. 17, 1993, to succeed Andy Roxburgh. Under Brown, Scotland reached Euro '96 and narrowly missed the quarterfinals and qualified for the 1998 World Cup last autumn.

Venables needs time to ponder move to Palace

LONDON (Reuters) — Former England coach Terry Venables has asked for a week to consider an offer to manage relegation-threatened premier league club Crystal Palace.

Palace chief Mark Goldberg has offered Venables a five-year contract, which will include performance bonuses and a share option deal in addition to a generous salary.

But Venables, who coached England to the semifinals of the 1996 European championship before stepping down, needs time to think over a return to club management. "I am confident that Terry will agree to join us," said Goldberg after a two-hour

meeting with Venables on Monday.

"He warmed to the proposals I put before him but he has a lot of thinking to do."

"He didn't want to make a five-year decision overnight, but I take it as a positive sign that he wants to think about it." Venables began his managerial career with Palace in 1976, taking the club from the Third Division to the top flight in his four seasons in charge.

Current manager Steve Coppell is expected to become director of football at the club who are presently stuck at the bottom of the league after a comprehensive 3-0 home defeat by Coventry City on Saturday.

ASA Jerusalem XV trounce Ra'anana

By JOEL GORDIN

ASA Jerusalem, helped by their foreign players, scored an unexpected big, 42-11 win over Hapoel Ra'anana at the Hebrew University Stadium as the local rugby league season resumed at the weekend after a three-week break.

The home team scored six tries; by Fijian fly-half Ezekiel Waku, center Drogos Bankan, wing Gary Stephens wing, James Hudson, center Max Shrut and flank Sagi Silverman. Waku kicked three penalties and a conversion and scrum-half Terry Sapir kicked a conversion.

For Ra'anana, flank Gavin Machat scored a try while fly-half Doron Edelstein kicked two penalties.

In the only game at Tel Aviv's Sportek, Hapoel Netanya beat

Hapoel Galil Elyon 32-24. Scrum-half James Whitmore scored three tries for Netanya and full-back Darren Pincus and Paul Wainstein scored a try each. Pincus kicked two conversions and a drop goal. Galil's tries were scored by their Fiji reinforcements, the centers Joe Adroli and Frisco Cegu (who scored twice). Fly-half Zohar Rudolf converted all three tries and also kicked a penalty.

ASA Tel Aviv, unbeaten after 10 games, lead the A division, followed by Hapoel Netanya and Rishon LeZion.

Ra'anana (6-4) lead the B division, followed by Jerusalem and Galil Elyon. In an under 19 game yesterday, Ra'anana beat Rishon 20-3, while in an under-16 game, Kibbutz Yitz'el trounced Kibbutz Tzora 49-15.

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MERCEDES 190, 1993, 80,000 km., second

hand, metallic color. Tel. 050-332-958,

050-989-068, 02-652-4942. (14590)

BMW, 516i, 1990, 90,000 km., automatic,

tested for current year, electric win-

dows, power steering, alarm system + im-

mobilizer, central locking, black, excellent

condition! List price.

CRITICS' CHOICE



Giuseppe Sinopoli conducts Mahler in Tel Aviv.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Giuseppe Sinopoli, one of the leading and most intriguing conductors of this generation returns once again to the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, after exciting and captivating performances of *La Bohème* last season, to conduct Mahler's monumental Third Symphony with mezzo-soprano Natasha Petrusky and the Ankor Children's Choir. Three performances only: tonight, tomorrow and Thursday (8:30) at the Marm Auditorium in Tel Aviv.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

***AS GOOD AS IT GETS—With this bittersweet romantic comedy, writer and director James L. Brooks aims right at a decent, unambitious middle ground and hits almost all of his marks. And while it may seem questionable to commend a filmmaker for shamelessly lowering the dramatic stakes (the film features a shaggy lit-

tle dog, for instance, who reacts adorably and on cue to most of the characters' tantrums), the movie is so well-proportioned and entertaining in its cartoonish, commercial and unprofound way, it's easy to overlook all the things that it isn't, and doesn't try to be. The film is clearly inspired by television and centers on the unlikely relationship between Melvin (Jack Nicholson), a sour loner of a romance novelist with an obsessive-compulsive disorder, and Carol (Helen Hunt), a straight-talking single mother and waitress, burdened by her young son's serious asthma. Also with Greg Kinnear. (Parental guidance suggested.)

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

The Inbal Dance Theater presents three of Sara Levy-Tanai's great dances, *The Silversmith*, *The Story of Ruth* and the poetically evocative *Winged Letters*. There's also *Ruach Kadim* ("The Spirit of Jars") by Racheli Sela who also wrote the music. Levy-Tanai's dances are based on Yemenite music. Tonight at Inbal in the Suzanne Dellal Center at 8:30 p.m.

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News Flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:40 Good Morning Israel
10:00 News
10:05 Ed Sullivan
10:25 Acapulco Heat
11:25 The Cape
12:00 Sports
12:30 The 700 Club
2:30 CNN News

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Computer Science
8:30 Art Workshop
9:00 Science and Nature
10:00 Programs for the very young
11:00 English
12:00 French
13:00 Science and Technology
13:00 Geography
15:15 Animation
15:00 Pretty Butterfly

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Super Ben and Zep 1
15:35 Rocky Wacziarg
16:00 Mystery Isle
16:20 Zappaz
16:50 A New Evening
17:34 Close-Up
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Apropo
18:30 News
18:30 Hebrew Programs
18:30 News Flash
18:31 The Simpsons
18:33 Filled on the Street
20:00 News
20:45 Mine Host Mini Piter
21:55 Lotta Draw - live
22:00 Basketball
22:30 Maccabi Tel Aviv in the European Cup
22:30 Basketball - Telesystem Bologna vs. Maccabi Tel Aviv
00:05 News
00:10 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's Programs
5:58 On the Edge of the Shell
6:00 Cartoons
6:45 Reshet Morning
9:00 Meetings
10:00 Pablo
11:00 The Little Circle
12:00 Aishan
12:30 Forest of Legends
12:30 Boogies Diner
13:00 The Gold and the Blue
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Junior News
15:00 Best Video Clips
15:00 The Gold and the Blue
15:00 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Reshet
17:30 New Zehn Zah
18:00 Dress on You - Uzi Hattani makes kids' dreams come true
18:30 Family and a Hall
19:00 Fame L.A.
20:00 News
20:31 IDF 1
21:05 Candi Camera
21:50 Dan Shilon Live
22:00 The Ambassador
00:00 News
00:05 Ambassador, cont.
00:35 Mission Impossible
1:30 On the Edge of the Shell

JORDANIATV (21)

(unconfirmed)

16:10 Holy Koran
16:10 Children's TV
16:30 Conan the Adventurer
17:30 To Know More
18:00 Magazine
18:30 Bortolotto
19:00 La Journal
19:00 News Headlines
19:30 Game Show
20:00 What Would You Do?
21:00 Encounters
21:30 The Postman
21:40 Acapulco Heat
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie
00:00 Metro Café

MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

14:00 TV Shop
14:30 Body Electric
15:00 Basic Training
15:30 The 700 Club
16:00 Larry King

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Jake's Women (1995) - Neil Simon's semi-autobiographical play about a playwright going through middle crisis. With Alan Alda, Anne Archer, Lolita Davidovich and Julie Kerner.
13:05 Letters From Moe (1991) - short film about a young woman who dreams of another life elsewhere, without her husband and away from her son.
13:45 Fighting for My

JERUSALEM CINEATHEQUE

G.G. GIL

Jerusalem Mail (Maths) = 6788448

Tomorrow Never Dies-The Jackal - L.A.

Confidential-Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10

Devils Advocate-4:45, 7:15, 10, 12

The Jackal-4:30, 7:15, 10, 12

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PRIME TIME

	1	2	3	4	5	6
19:30	Simpsons Finn on the Street	News	Beverly Hills 90210	Family Matters Three's Company	Compre- sion	
20:00	Mine Host Mini Piter	IDF 1	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch Beverly Hills 90210	Married with Children Helen and the Boys	Ultrasound	
21:00	Candid Camera	Dan Shilon Live	Suddenly Susan	Beverly Hills 90210	Eight on Eight	Yael Dan
22:00	Weekly Lotto Draw	Yair Lapid Live at 10	The Pompatius of Love	The Devil and Miss Jones	Blood	
23:00		Seinfeld	Ricki Lake		Human Nature	

8:06 Shops and Robbers (pt) 9:55 Swan Lake - Kirov Ballet 12:00 Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 12:55 A Healthy Body 13:25 Close Encounters (pt) 14:10 Ultracolor: Born to Be Bad (pt) 14:40 Beyond 2000 15:25 Germ Genie 16:10 Human Nature 17:00 Open University: Cellular Heroes: Mastering the Internet: Earm Released 18:20 A Healthy Body 19:30 Conspiracies 20:30 Ultracolor: War 2020 - future wars and their technology 21:30 Hard Talk 22:00 Reporters 23:30 A Geller's Travels 1:00 World News and Sports 2:05 USA Direct	23:30 Vegas 00:30 Oprah Winfrey 1:30 21 Jump Street	Soccer 23:30 South American Cup EUROSPORT (15/16) 9:30 Soccer: African Nations Cup - quarter finals 11:00 Winter Olympics highlights 13:00 Hannover ATP Tournament 15:00 Indoor athletics from Birmingham 16:00 Soccer: African Nations Cup - quarter finals 18:00 Soccer: African Nations Cup - quarter finals 20:00 Soccer: African Nations Cup - quarter finals 22:00 Soccer: African Nations Cup - quarter finals 24:00 Soccer: African Nations Cup - quarter finals 26:00 Soccer: African Nations Cup - quarter finals 28:00 Soccer: African Nations Cup - quarter finals 30:00 Soccer: African Nations Cup - quarter finals	Cantabile from Santa Quarant 1: Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto no 1 8:05 Bellini: score Barry Levine: Schubert: Fantasia in F minor for Piano Four Hands (Pavane) Schubert: Four movement of string quartet (Pavane) Shostakovich: Symphony no. 5 Oros and Pletti: Mozart: Ave Maria (Bartleby) Enescu: Sinfonia Sinfonia no. 1 Sinfonia no. 2 Sinfonia no. 3 Sinfonia no. 4 Sinfonia no. 5 Sinfonia no. 6 Sinfonia no. 7 Sinfonia no. 8 Sinfonia no. 9 Sinfonia no. 10 Sinfonia no. 11 Sinfonia no. 12 Sinfonia no. 13 Sinfonia no. 14 Sinfonia no. 15 Sinfonia no. 16 Sinfonia no. 17 Sinfonia no. 18 Sinfonia no. 19 Sinfonia no. 20 Sinfonia no. 21 Sinfonia no. 22 Sinfonia no. 23 Sinfonia no. 24 Sinfonia no. 25 Sinfonia no. 26 Sinfonia no. 27 Sinfonia no. 28 Sinfonia no. 29 Sinfonia no. 30 Sinfonia no. 31 Sinfonia no. 32 Sinfonia no. 33 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UEFA Cup preview
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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Waqar strikes to seal Pakistan win over SA

DURBAN (Reuters) — Waqar Younis seized South Africa's last two wickets on the fifth morning of the second Test at Kingsmead yesterday to give Pakistan victory by 29 runs and a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series.

Resuming on 186 for eight in pursuit of 255 for victory, Mark Boucher and Fanie de Villiers raised hopes of an extraordinary win by extending their ninth wicket partnership from 53 overnight to 86 before Waqar struck twice in quick succession.

A yorker finally broke through wicketkeeper Boucher's defence two balls after reaching his second Test half-century, and Allan Donald was lbw for nought in Waqar's next over.

"It was a wonderful win. South Africa threaten everyone with their record at Kingsmead but we produced a magnificent team performance to beat them," said captain Aamir Sohail.

De Villiers resumed in the morning in the same belligerent fashion that he began his innings on Sunday, reverse-sweeping Mushtaq for a boundary in the leg-spinner's second over and then walking down the wicket to Waqar and aiming expansive cover drives at the fast bowler.

The seamer moved from 26 to 46 not out on 67 balls with six boundaries but Sohail claimed his side were never worried that victory might escape them.

"We knew all along that we just needed two good balls. They were the ones under pressure, not us," he said. Both century-makers were ignored for the man-of-the-match award, as was Shaun Pollock for his second innings record of six for 50 and 100 runs in the match. The accolade went to Mushtaq Ahmed for a match haul of nine for 149.



100 DAYS TO GO — Michel Platini poses with 100 children from the 10 French cities hosting the World Cup, which starts on June 10, yesterday. President Jacques Chirac hosted the children at the Elysee Palace as the countdown for the soccer extravaganza entered the last 100 days yesterday.

More World Cup tickets promised

BONN (Reuters) — FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said extra tickets should be available to fans outside France for the World Cup finals.

"We have asked France for the remaining tickets that are reserved for the retail market in France to be returned to FIFA," Blatter told German sports television DSF.

"That will allow the federations of the countries in the finals to get more tickets," he added in a program broadcast on Sunday, without saying how many spare tickets the sport's governing body was expecting to get.

The European Union had warned the French organizing committee (CFO) that it was monopolizing most of the tickets, making it hard to buy them outside France.

But the CFO and FIFA have said they were following guidelines agreed by the EU some two years ago.

CFO spokesman Christophe Kulkawka said yesterday a meeting between the French organizers and EU officials was scheduled for Thursday in Brussels. He declined to elaborate.

Sunday's seeming change of heart took observers by surprise. Just three days ago, hopes of improving the situation appeared slim despite Dutch and German soccer authorities joining England and Scotland in complaining.

Asked about the specific demands of the German Soccer Federation (DFB), Blatter said: "The wishes of the DFB will be taken into account up to a certain limit." Blatter played down a newspaper report that EU competition commissioner Karel Van Miert was threatening fines because of an unfair allocation of tickets.

"This remark is not to be taken seriously. The distribution of the tickets has been blessed by the EU. Of course, it is wonderful that football is so popular," he said.

The *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper had quoted Van Miert as threatening the organizers of the finals with a fine because of complaints that foreign fans were not getting fair access to tickets.

This year's World Cup will be the biggest in history with 32 teams competing and more spectators than ever.

Although France is within easy travelling distance of many of the countries, around 60 percent of tickets have been made available to French supporters, with another 20 percent going to sponsors.

The worry has been that fans are likely to swarm over to France from abroad in the hope of getting tickets from touts.

There are fears that frustrated supporters could cause may-

hem in French cities.

The matter was a key issue at a meeting of European Union police chiefs and politicians in Blackburn, northern England, on Friday.

British Sports Minister Tony Banks said: "I can't believe it is beyond FIFA to buy back some of the tickets." European champions Germany said they would be able to pass tickets to between only 700 and 800 fans for preliminary round group matches. A total of more than 50,000 Germans had applied for tickets.

DFB general secretary Horst Schmidt said Germany, which has a common border with France, had a total of just 7,316 tickets for the three group matches.

The DFB has to give half of those tickets to sponsors and DFB member federations and league clubs, leaving a very small number for fans.

England have been allocated just 2,589 tickets for one of their group matches against Colombia in the northern city of Leeds, where the stadium has a capacity of 42,000.

Scotland said they had been granted only 5,000 tickets for the opening match of the tournament on June 10 against champions Brazil, one of the biggest games in the country's history.

Windies humiliate England

GEORGETOWN (Reuters) — West Indies took a 2-1 lead in the Test series with England yesterday after sending the tourists to a crushing 242-run defeat at Bourda, here.

England surrendered meekly as West Indies fast bowlers Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh swept all before them in a hurry to finish off the Test within four days.

Ambrose ended with bowling figures of four wickets for 38 and Walsh with 3-25, as England again failed when a rearguard action was most needed.

England's task of winning the Test was made well-nigh impossible by a record-breaking, frustrating last-wicket partnership of 70 between Ian Bishop and debutant spinner Dinanath Ramnarine before West Indies were all out for 197.

With West Indies enjoying a first innings lead of 182, England had snatched just a glimmer of a chance by reducing them to 127 for nine in their second innings on Sunday.

Bishop and Ramnarine snuffed out even that slim hope as they defied England spinners Phil Tufnell and Robert Croft for almost the entire morning session.

It took the introduction of pace to end West Indies' highest last wicket partnership against England with Dean Headley having Ramnarine edging a catch to wicketkeeper Jack Russell after making 19. It left Bishop unbeaten on 44.

England second innings:
M.Atherton lbw b Ambrose 1
A.Stewart lbw b Walsh 12
M.Bailey lbw b Hopper 17
N.Maclean c Adams b Walsh 0
G.Thorpe c Ramnarine b Ambrose 3
M.Ramprakash c D.Williams b Walsh 34
J.Russell c Lara b Ambrose 17
R.Croft c D.Williams b Hopper 14
D.Headley c Chanderpaul b Ambrose 9
A.Fraser c Walsh b Hopper 2
P.Tufnell not out 0
Extras (b 4 b 2 w 1 nb 18) 22
Total (25.1 overs) 127
Fall of wickets: 1-0 2-25 3-22 4-28 5-58 6-80 7-116 8-125 9-135 10-157.
Bowling: Ambrose 14.1-3-28-4 (nb13), Walsh 15-4-25-3 (nb3), Hopper 18-9-31-3, Bishop 3-1-4-0, Ramnarine 11-5-28-0 (w1), Adams 1-0-0-0.
Result: West Indies won by 242 runs. First Test: Kingston - Abandoned. Second Test: West Indies won by three wickets. Third Test: England won by three wickets. Fifth Test: March 12-16, Bridgetown. Sixth Test: March 20-24, St John's, Antigua.

West Ham-Arsenal clash ends goalless

LONDON, March 2 (Reuters) — Arsenal missed out on a chance to reduce Manchester United's impressive lead in the English premier league last night when they could manage only a goalless draw at London rivals West Ham.

Arsenal began the match with three games in hand over United and could have reduced United's lead to nine points if they had won.

But neither team deserved to take all three points from a game which was full of energy and effort but with few moments of real skill and goal-scoring chances.

Although Arsenal moved up to second place, just ahead of Blackburn Rovers on goal difference.

Maccabi readies for real test with Final 16 clash against Teamsystem

By BRIAN FREEMAN

The matchup everybody expected has finally arrived, as Maccabi Tel Aviv takes on Teamsystem Bologna tonight in Game 1 of the EuroLeague's best-of-three Final 16 in Italy.

It seems like it was months ago that pundits took one look at the remaining final pool schedule and said that if all goes according to script these two teams are headed for a showdown.

At first glance, Maccabi comes into tonight's contest in the best shape possible to advance further than it did last season, when the Israeli champions lost to Efes Pilsen in the Final 16.

Maccabi finished final pool play with a seven-game winning streak to post an 11-5 record — its highest number of European wins since 1989. It has also run off five consecutive road victories, something even the 1977 and 1981 European champion teams were unable to achieve.

The team has also looked in sync in its victories over European opponents, especially with the reemergence of Randy White as a more consistent force in the second half of the season.

Although none of these achievements should be taken away from Maccabi, the truth is it has been awhile since Tel Aviv has seen an opponent the caliber of Teamsystem.

Some of the shine comes off Maccabi's longest European winning streak in nine seasons when taking a look at the 10-38 combined record of the last six teams it has beaten.

In games against teams which finished with at least a .500 record, Maccabi only has a 2-4 mark this season.

On the road to the Final 16, Teamsystem has

taken a different path. Against clubs .500 or better, the Italians posted an impressive 5-3 record, but were unable to pad their mark against lightweight clubs, managing only the same 5-3 mark to finish the final pool at 10-6.

Teamsystem, which during the offseason billed itself as the Italian "Dream Team" after overhauling its club and bringing in superstars Dominique Wilkins and David Rivers, discovered early in the European campaign that in basketball the sum of several great individual parts does not always add up to a team working well together.

The team hoped to improve on its first final pool appearance last season (the other Bologna club, Kinder, is the one Maccabi has battled so many times over the years), when it finished first in its group with a 12-4 record, swept the Final 16 series over Sevilla and then was upset by eventual runners-up Barcelona 2-1 in the quarterfinals.

But the club, after winning its first four contests, stumbled through a stretch in which it lost five of seven games before recovering to win four of its last five contests.

Much of the problem apparently stemmed from too many players who had been the focus of their previous team's offense and now had to share the ball with other superstars.

Rivers was the leading scorer and main three-point threat last season in leading Olympiakos to the European title. He had a 17.2 scoring average and took 100 more shots than any teammate.

Wilkins, who returned to the NBA last season after leading Panathinaikos to the European title in 1996, averaged 20.9 points (and 7.0 rebounds) as the go-to guy for the Greek club that season.

Carlton Myers, the only returning starter for

Teamsystem, was even more dominant on his team. Last season he was the EuroLeague's leading scorer (22.9 per game), as well as Teamsystem's best three-point shooter (43.9%) and best from the free-throw line (86.1%). He also shot the ball an incredible 112 times more than any other teammate.

Throw into that mix of top-notch players the newly acquired Italian national team star Gregor Fucks (from Stefanel Milan), and it's no wonder Teamsystem has had trouble finding enough offensive opportunities for everyone.

Maccabi, which enters the series without home-court advantage, is the underdog. Last season's win over Milan was Maccabi's first in Italy in the championships in nine tries this decade, while Teamsystem has gone 8-0 at home this season.

This is the third time Maccabi has been in a best-of-three series since the system began in 1992, and the previous two times Tel Aviv lost the series by winning the home game but dropping both away contests (to Efes Pilsen in 1992 and to Efes Pilsen last season).

However, Maccabi can be bolstered by the knowledge that it has already pulled off victories this season in such difficult venues as Madrid against Real and in Athens against Olympiakos.

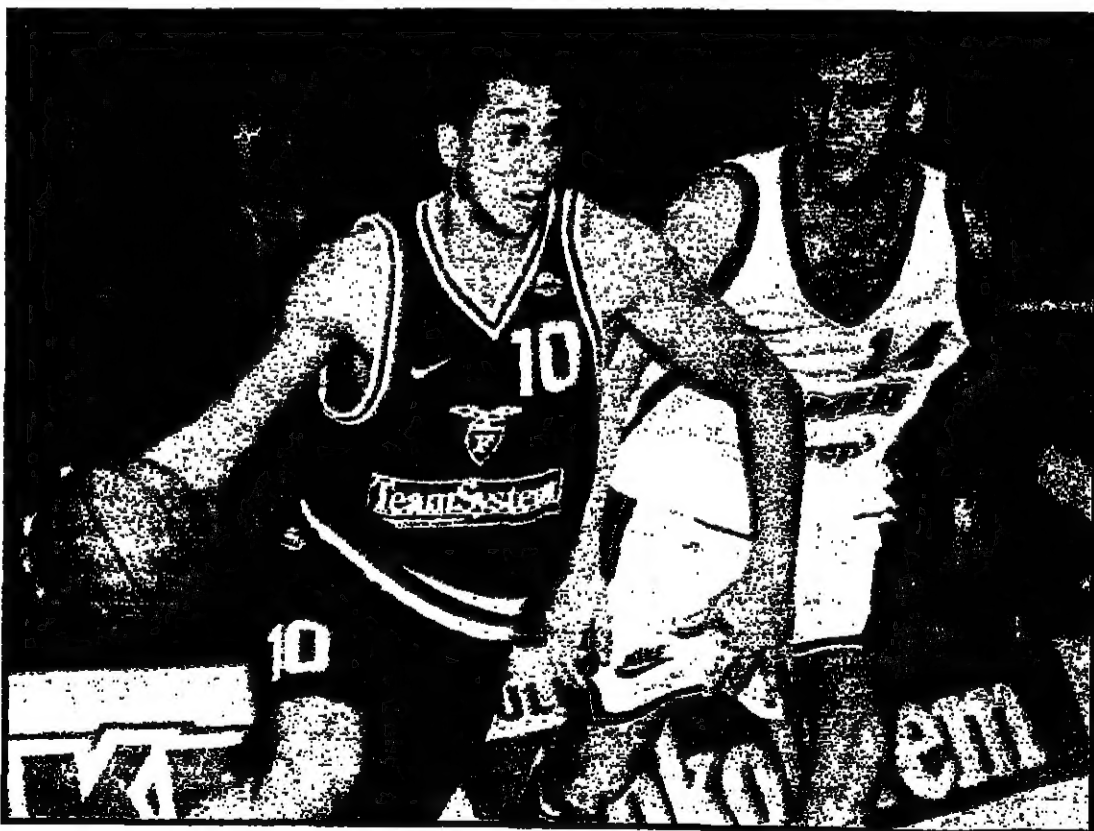
Also, last season Teamsystem took a 9-1 home mark into the third and decisive quarterfinal game against Barcelona, only to be thrashed by the visiting Spaniards 87-62.

In fact, last season the team with home-court advantage won only five of the 12 series in the Final 16 and quarterfinals, hardly a ringing endorsement of the importance of playing at home.

Another factor supposedly diminishing Maccabi's chances is the participation of three starters (Oded Kattash, Doron Sheffer and Nadav Henefeld) in national team play this past week. Although their possible fatigue must be taken into account, Teamsystem also had two key players (Myers and Fucks) play for the Italian national team.

In the other Final 16 opening matchups (team with home-court advantage listed first), defending champions Olympiakos takes on Partizan Belgrade, Efes Pilsen battles Cibona Zagreb, AEK Athens plays Split, Benetton Treviso faces Olimpija Ljubljana, CSKA Moscow plays defending runners-up Barcelona, Alba Berlin battles PAOK Salonika and Kinder Bologna challenges Estudiantes Madrid (if Maccabi wins its series, it plays the survivor of this matchup in the best-of-three quarterfinals).

The Maccabi-Teamsystem matchup is scheduled to be shown live on Channel 1 starting at 22:30. Game 2 will be on Thursday in Tel Aviv, and Game 3 (if necessary) back in Bologna.



MACCABI FOE — Guard Carlton Myers, seen here driving past Ulker's Hahuk Yildirim in EuroLeague action earlier this season, is one of the Big Three in Teamsystem Bologna's attack. (Reuters)

Dominique: The danger man

The last time Maccabi Tel Aviv played an Italian club in the later stages of the EuroLeague was in the 1987 and 1988 championship games, when the Israelis lost both years to Bob McAdoo's Tracer Milan.

Ten years later, Maccabi finds itself facing another NBA giant — Dominique Wilkins — in its quest to capture its first European title since 1981.

McAdoo, who won three straight scoring titles in a 13-

year NBA career before hooking up with Milan at age 35, was a constant thorn in Maccabi's side.

He was by no means the only factor in Tracer's victories over Tel Aviv in the title games, but he scored 21 points in 1987 and 27 in 1988 to lead Milan to back-to-back European championships.

Wilkins, 38, himself the owner of a scoring title and eighth on the all-time NBA scoring list with 26,710 points in a 14-year

career, already has won a European championship when he led Olympiakos to the title two seasons ago.

That season he already started giving Maccabi trouble. Panathinaikos eliminated Maccabi from any chance of advancing past the final pool when Wilkins scored 11 of his 28 points in the final three minutes to defeat Maccabi at Yad Eliah 86-79.

Brian Freeman

Player	Scoring average	Minutes per game	2-point shooting	3-point shooting	Free throws
Oded Kattash	15.1	37.2	49.2% (82-127)	38.2% (21-51)	72.2% (89-104)
Rehavam Givoni	13.4	30.9	61.4% (39-145)	0% (0-0)	81.4% (51-63)
Doron Sheffer	13.4	34.8	52.7% (58-110)	39.5% (17-43)	78.7% (48-61)
Randy White	12.0	27.5	55.1% (54-98)	38.0% (14-38)	82.7% (42-50)
Borja Radozovic	8.1	13.5	43.8% (14-32)	43.8% (7-18)	75.0% (18-24)
Nadav Henefeld	5.0	20.9	49.2% (22-45)	0% (0-0)	84.2% (18-21)
Derrick Sharp	4.7	13.8	37.5% (8-19)	35.5% (11-31)	85.0% (16-20)
Carlton Myers	3.5	9.5	63.8% (14-22)	0% (0-0)	70.0% (14-20)
David Rivers	3.2	14.6	42.3% (7-16)	36.4% (4-11)	81.0% (18-22)

Player	Scoring average	Minutes per game	2-point shooting	3-point shooting	Free throws
Dominique Wilkins	18.1	35.9	49.7% (89-177)	31.2% (12-39)	72.2% (67-79)
Carlton Myers	15.1	35.9	46.9% (59-127)	10.7% (3-29)	70.7% (51-64)
Gregor Fucks	13.4	36.8	55.9% (80-103)	25.0% (14-57)	82.8% (53-64)
Rehavam Givoni	10.1	28.5	52.0% (55-125)	20.0% (1-5)	85.1% (29-34)
David Rivers	9.1	18.1	58.1% (15-48)	0% (0-0)	83.8% (27-31)
Paolo Morici	4.0	12.8	78.8% (11-14)	31.2% (7-22)	100% (6-6)
Daniel Orsini	3.7	17.2	52.0% (11-21)	38.5% (9-24)	71.4% (16-24)
Stefano Artico	3.1	15.9	61.7% (11-21)	22.0% (6-28)	70% (7-10)
Giuseppe Galante	2.8	8.8	28.6% (8-21)	57.5% (10-13)	80.0% (1-2)